

LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
446,000
No 63,600

Major warns on pay as deal looms at Ford

TUC and CBI urged to combat inflation

By Robin Oakley, Kevin Eason and Colin Narbrough

Mr John Major issued a stern warning yesterday to the TUC and the CBI that wage increases above the level of productivity would lead to increased unemployment, higher inflation and a lengthy period of continued high interest rates.

Crucial pay negotiations at Ford were continuing as the Chancellor of the Exchequer told the National Economic Development Council that higher productivity was the only valid reason for big pay awards.

He said of Britain's businesses: "If, over a period, they pay wage increases above the rate of productivity, they will fuel inflation and they are likely to cost jobs."

Mr Major told both sides of industry, who complained of high interest rates and warned him of the dangers of recession: "Everyone wants to get

interest rates down. The way to get interest rates down is to get inflation down."

But Ford, Britain's biggest car company whose pay deals act as a benchmark, was on the brink of giving in to union pressure last night by offering an inflation-busting double-ambulance dispute.

figure pay rise to its 32,000 manual workers.

Mr Major will go into retreat at Chevening this weekend with his Treasury colleagues and civil servants to begin considering this year's Budget with escalating pay claims the Government's biggest economic worry.

Downing Street is insisting that it will be management and workers who will be to blame for the lost jobs if inflationary wage claims are granted.

Ministers are warning all and sundry that wage increases not matched by productivity increases will inevitably mean British firms losing business to worldwide competitors and an early end to the 40 consecutive months in which unemployment in Britain has decreased.

Ministers are taking the political risk of fighting the ambulance pay dispute so hard because they fear a high deal will trigger a rush of other pay claims.

Both sides at Ford were prepared to talk on last night to try to avert a strike that could damage its position as Britain's market leader. It was becoming clear Ford would be forced to offer rises of 10 per cent or more.

That would smash through the current inflation rate of 7.7 per cent and dismay ministers who have set a priority of containing wage rises as part of the attack on inflation.

Mr John Banham, the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, blamed the Government for the "headline rate" of inflation which was leading to the increase in wage demands.

Rising electricity prices and the £2 billion added to industry's bills from the uniform business rate being introduced in April would increase industry's costs.

Mr Banham added: "These are own-goals. I think the Chancellor knows very well

Hostile crowd awaits Gorbachov



Lithuanians pack Cathedral Square in Vilnius yesterday in a rally organized by the nationalist group Sajudis on the eve of a visit by President Gorbachov.

Moscow hints at a compromise as Lithuania demands freedom

By Nick Worrall in Vilnius, and Mary Dejevsky

Thousands of Lithuanians, shouting and singing their desire for independence, joined a demonstration in the centre of Vilnius yesterday amid signs that Moscow was trying to find at least a temporary solution to the conflict between the Soviet and Lithuanian Communist Party organizations.

The previous evening Mr Vadim Medvedev, the Kremlin's ideology chief who is leading a 40-strong delegation on a fact-finding mission around the republic, hinted that Moscow might be on the point of conceding many of the Lithuanian party's demands. He suggested that it might be the central party organization rather than the Lithuanian party that would be required to make the greater concessions.

"The party as a whole can benefit from greater decentralization," Mr Medvedev said. A Central Committee plenum planned to be held in Moscow last week, at which the Soviet leader was reported for the first time to have been sympathetic to the Lithuanian point of view.

Tass quoted Mr Medvedev as saying: "The platform must be prepared for a number of radical transformations in the party. These must be substantially for the independence of Communist parties in the republics, of party organizations and of the role of each party member."

It was not clear, however, whether he was envisaging the possibility of individual, independent party organizations, or whether he meant only that relations between the centre and the republic-level parties would be looser in future. For the Lithuanian Communist Party, the difference would be crucial.

Mr Medvedev's remarks followed a meeting between organization Sajudis to coincide with the first day of President Gorbachov's visit to the republic. Although the start of the Soviet leader's visit was postponed by a day, the demonstration went ahead as a warm-up for the massive demonstration planned by Sajudis to greet Mr Gorbachov when he arrives in Lithuania today.

Speeches calling for independence and secession from the Soviet Union and banners emblazoned with slogans like "Gorbachov go home - with Red Army" gave a foretaste of what the Soviet leader can expect.

Groups from Estonia, Latvia, Belorussia and the Ukraine had driven to Vilnius to hoist their own nationalist flags in support of Lithuania's bid for independence.

Mr Gorbachov's itinerary has not yet been released. It is believed that he will fly from Moscow direct to a military airport outside Vilnius and first visit one of the republic's smaller towns first. He may not arrive in the capital until tomorrow.

Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, the leader of Sajudis, said: "Forus Mr Gorbachov is visiting as head of a neighbouring foreign state. It is a state with which we do not wish to have bad relations."

Martial law ends in Peking

From Heidi Chay Peking

Chinese authorities declared an end to seven months of martial law in Peking yesterday, soon after Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, arrived in the Chinese capital on a confidence-building mission.

"The lifting of martial law indicates that the situation in the capital and the whole country has become stable," Mr Li Peng, the Chinese Premier said.

"A great victory has been won in checking the turmoil and quelling the counter-revolutionary rebellion," he said, referring to the pro-democracy movement that prompted the declaration of martial law on May 20.

The announcement was well timed to set an upbeat tone for Sir David's talks with senior Chinese leaders during

INSIDE

No spoils to the victors

● Marica Pulica and Ivan Patzalkin were Olympic heroes - but international recognition brought them no relief from the rigours of life in their home country of Romania. On page 38 we conclude our series on sport under the Ceausescu dynasty with a look at how fame meant little fortune for some of the great athletes of the past 20 years

Portfolio PLATINUM

● Three people shared yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize of £2,000 (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000 appears on: page 29

Nixdorf £1bn

● Nixdorf, the loss-making West German computer maker, has sold out control to Siemens, the electronics concern which is Europe's biggest information technology group, for an estimated £1bn. Page 21

Kidney charge

● A surgeon was accused of deceiving colleagues when he used a National Health Service kidney on a private patient who was not entitled, the kidneys-for-sale hearing was told in London. Page 3

Bae dispute

● British Aerospace insisted it would not negotiate with striking employees as union leaders said the dispute could spread through the company. Leading article 11 Business News 23

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Catholic order expels Ryan



Patrick Ryan (above), the Irish priest wanted in Britain on charges of conspiracy to murder and possession of explosives, was expelled yesterday from his Order, the Pallottine Fathers, for defying his superiors.

He can no longer offer Mass, preach or administer sacraments. He is understood to have last worked for the Pallottines, the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, in 1973.

Full report, page 2

Customs drugs haul is up 39%

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

Customs drug seizures rose 39 per cent last year to a record street value of £259 million amid evidence that traffickers are increasingly using European Community countries as transit routes to avoid tough controls on entry into Britain.

New Customs seizure figures for 1989 announced yesterday show that 40 per cent of all drugs seized last year came from other EC countries, and that the European smuggling phenomenon now includes a growing use of day trippers to bring drugs across the Channel through ports like Dover.

Overall the 1989 seizures offer little hope for the Government of a respite in the fight to halt drug abuse. Cocaine seizures rose by 49 per cent to 935lb, while heroin seizures went up by 43 per cent to 730lb, which is equivalent to 11 million doses and must prompt fresh anxiety about abuse of the drug.

Heroin seizures have also started to rise in the United States, but this has been attributed to the peaking of cocaine use. There are no signs in Britain that cocaine use has peaked.

Despite the increasing seizures of the narcotic drugs, the purity and street price of both cocaine and heroin remain stable in Britain.

Cannabis seizures rose by 15 per cent, from 44 tonnes in 1988 to 50 tonnes last year, 50 per cent of it coming in through EC countries, and amphetamine sulphate seizures rose by 13 per cent, from 28½lb to 48½lb.

The full national picture of seizures will not be complete for some months, after figures

Hurd survives revolt on Hong Kong immigration

By Our Political Staff

Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, faced less criticism than expected yesterday when he sought to head off a Conservative backbench revolt over proposals to give 50,000 Hong Kong heads of households the right to live in Britain.

He told the Conservative backbench foreign affairs committee that the scheme struck a "fair balance" between Britain's duty to Hong Kong and the need to control immigration. Mr Hurd leaves tomorrow for Hong Kong, where legislators claim the package is too small.

Mr Hurd disclosed yesterday that more Vietnamese refugees are to be sent home. He also reaffirmed that greater democracy would be introduced in Hong Kong elections in 1991 and 1995. But he will not announce proposals on his visit. This will further disappoint Hong Kong legislators.

MPs split over admission charges to museums

By Simon Tait Arts Correspondent

A Commons select committee has been split over admission charges for national museums and galleries.

The select committee on education, science and the arts published yesterday a delayed report, *Should Museums Charge? Some Case Studies*, which recommends "that all national museums and galleries should consider introducing compulsory admission charges".

It is, however, no more than a majority report. Labour members of the committee have taken the unprecedented step of tabling a minority report rejecting the proposition of charges.

Mr Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, the senior Labour committee member, said: "It has never been done before in this committee. On this issue we felt that it was so important, a tradition of free entry which has been so long established, and that it should remain that we, rather sadly, have had to put out a minority report."

He said there had been no evidence to show that revenue raised by charging would compensate for the loss of visitors.

Mr Peter Longman, secretary of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said the committee was in disarray over the issue. "It is very sad that the committee, which has done so much good work over the years for the arts, should have torn itself apart."

Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, said he had voted for charging only "in the hope that trustees would consider it and then reject it".

Shortly before the report's publication was expected, in November, the then chairman, Mr Timothy Raison, resigned over leaks from the committee and divisions among members, and it was revealed yesterday that the final majority report was the result of drastic redrafting.

Mr Malcolm Thornton, the new chairman and Conservative MP for Crosby, said the main recommendations were that trustees of national museums and galleries should consider imposing compulsory admission charges; and that there should be concessions for children, the disadvantaged and regular users.

GREENPEACE



WHALE ACTION

This Friday (the 12th January, the Japanese Prime Minister Mr Kaifu will be meeting with Mrs Thatcher.

His visit to Britain occurs as Japanese whalers are killing up to 300 minke whales in Antarctica. Greenpeace believes that this slaughter must end.

Mrs Thatcher could save these whales by representing your views on whaling to Mr Kaifu.

If you care about whales, please ring the Prime Minister now and ask her to intervene on their behalf.

Please ring: 01-270 3000

THANK GOD SOMEONE'S MAKING WAVES

GREENPEACE URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.

Please send a personal donation of £2 or a family donation of £7.50. In more, in return you will receive our quarterly newsletter and campaign updates. Remember, the more you can afford to send us, the more we can do to protect the natural world.

Please accept my donation of: ☐ £2 single ☐ £7.50 family ☐ other ☐

☐ I enclose cheque/PO, for £: payable to Greenpeace Ltd.

☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Access ☐ C.N.R.

Signature: Name: Mr/Ms/Ms

Address:

Postcode:

Please return to: Greenpeace, FRIELAND, 30-31 Kingdon Street, London N1 9RH.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Detonators link to IRA arms find

A member of the public has found what police believe might be home-made detonators connected with the IRA arms cache discovered in west Wales in November (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Dyfed Pows police said two batteries, connectors and some wire were found on December 31, eight days after police arrested two men as they approached the dump which contained 100 lbs of Semtex and a dozen hand weapons and AK47 automatic rifles.

A police spokesman said the material was undergoing forensic tests but said the find was of little or no significance. He strongly denied early reports that police had found more explosives and weapons on the Welsh coast.

Bookstore 'a hazard'

Disaster would have ensued had a fire broken out at Foyles, a bookstore in London's Charing Cross Road, Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court heard yesterday. Stacks of old novels and boxes blocked escape routes and the shop's fire doors were padlocked and bolted. Shoppers would have been trapped inside and would have been crushed in the "pandemonium". The family firm faces 11 charges of flouting fire regulations after a visit by inspectors in 1988. Mr Francis Boal, the assistant manager, and the company have admitted two charges but denied the rest.

Tory poll tax fears

Senior Tory MPs are considering a last-minute appeal to the Prime Minister about the amount of Treasury subsidy to cushion the introduction of the community charge (Nicholas Wood writes). The move comes as government whips grew more worried about a threatened backbench revolt next Thursday when the Commons debates the revenue support grant settlement for the new financial year. Some whips even fear a possible government defeat.

Tolstoy to appeal

Count Nikolai Tolstoy said yesterday that he would appeal against the libel damages of £1.5 million awarded to Lord Aldington, the former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party. Mr Nigel Watts, who published a pamphlet which Count Tolstoy had written concerning Lord Aldington's part in the repatriation of Cossacks and Yugoslavs at the end of the Second World War, is not to appeal. He will petition for bankruptcy.

90 tin mine jobs lost

A big fall in the international tin price led to the loss of 90 jobs at two of Britain's three remaining tin mines yesterday. The job cuts were made at the South Crofty mine, near Camborne, Cornwall, and the Wheal Jane mine, near Truro, which together employed 550. Carnon Consolidated, which bought the mines from Rio Tinto Zinc in a management buy-out in 1988, said: "We have to pull in our horns because the tin price has fallen from £5,800 to £4,200 a tonne."

Editor to leave Sky

Mr Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, is to give up his additional responsibilities as executive chairman of Sky Television from February 1 (Richard Evans writes). He took up the job in November 1988 and the four Sky channels were launched last February. Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, will take over Mr Neil's duties at Sky along with existing executives. Sky and Times Newspapers, publishers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, are both subsidiaries of News International.

Polytechnic bosses split on pay stance

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The first crack in the united front put up by the polytechnic employers in their dispute with the lecturers' union emerged yesterday. The governors of Oxford Polytechnic are planning to write to the Polytechnics' and Colleges' Employers' Forum criticizing its decision to withdraw recognition from the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

Provided the Oxford branch of the association agrees to an offer of 6 per cent from April last year, the directorate of the polytechnic will write to Mr Roger Ward, the employers' chief negotiator, urging him to reopen negotiations with the union and settle minimum hourly rates for part-time polytechnic academics.

Although Oxford Polytechnic has made a local offer, Mr Clive Booth, the director, wants to preserve national pay bargaining while a number of others do not.

Last week, the forum said that a third of the 84 polytechnics it represented were planning to make local settlements to try to end the dispute after the union rejected an 8.4 per cent pay offer.

Already, at least 100,000 students in polytechnics have been affected by the academics' refusal to mark examinations and assessments.

Although the 70,000 students on one-year courses have been worst affected, directors fear the action will bear upon an increasing number of ordinary undergraduates as well.

Mr Brian Sommers, deputy director of Oxford Polytechnic, said that at least 3,000 students on "modular" courses, which are assessed each

term, had been set back by the dispute, while about 25 have not received a degree award because of the academics' boycott of examinations.

"The effects of the dispute will escalate rapidly over the next two terms," he said. ● The leader of Britain's biggest teachers' union yesterday ruled out strike action in pursuit of its 20 per cent pay claim (Douglas Broom writes).

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said industrial action in schools would destroy "unprecedented" public support for its campaign for higher pay for teachers and alienate parents. A return to the methods which led to the Government imposing a pay deal on the 400,000 English and Welsh teachers in 1987 at the end of a disastrous pay dispute would be "counterproductive and weaken our case", he said.

However, Mr McAvoy announced that the union was prepared to spend up to £1 million in extending its newspaper advertising campaign highlighting teacher shortages. It also plans to lobby 50 Tory MPs in marginal seats to put pressure on the Government to relax its £600 million cash limit on the annual teachers' pay rise due in April, equivalent to a 7.5 per cent across-the-board increase.

The lobby will be timed to coincide with the report of the Interim Advisory Committee on teachers' pay, due out at the end of this month.

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Patrick Ryan is expelled from missionary order

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Patrick Ryan, the Roman Catholic priest wanted in Britain on terrorist charges, has been expelled from his missionary order.

The Roman Catholic Information Office in Dublin said yesterday that Mr Ryan had been dismissed from the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, a 2,000-strong order generally known as the Pallotine Fathers.

Quoting a brief statement issued by Father William Hanly, Provincial Superior of the Order in Ireland, it said Mr Ryan had been dismissed for "prolonged absences from the society and for persistent refusal to

comply with the legitimate instructions of his superiors". The statement said the decision had been ratified by the Holy See's Congregation for Institutes of the Consecrated Life in Rome last November.

It made no reference to Mr Ryan's alleged activities on behalf of the IRA or the fact that he is wanted by Scotland Yard on charges of conspiracy to murder and possession of bombs and explosives.

Under canon law, the decision means he can no longer perform the vows, rites or duties deriving from membership of the Order. He is also effectively suspended from priestly

functions. He cannot offer mass, preach or administer sacraments.

An inquiry by the Order into Mr Ryan began about six months ago after his return to Ireland after Belgium refused to extradite him to Britain. At the time, he was under temporary suspension pending a full inquiry and could say mass or preach in public only with the permission of his local bishop.

He is understood to have last worked for the Pallotines in 1973 when he returned to Ireland after brief spells in Africa and southern England. He has been out of contact with the Order ever since.

Mr Ryan was at the centre of a

political dispute last October after a decision by the Irish Director of Public Prosecutions not to proceed with a prosecution against him for alleged terrorist offences in Britain because of insufficient evidence.

Recently he petitioned Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, and Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Community, in an unsuccessful attempt to be granted a guarantee of safe passage against arrest and extradition throughout the EC.

Mr Ryan's expulsion, which means he can no longer be referred to in print as Father Ryan, will come as a great relief to the Roman

Catholic Church on both sides of the Irish Sea (Clifford Longley writes).

In 1988, Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster asked the British media not to call him Father Ryan. He said in a statement that the title implied a Christian pastoral ministry, adding: "Patrick Ryan walked out of his religious order 14 years ago. In so doing, he renounced the relationships which justify the normal use of the title, Father."

Ordination to the priesthood is viewed in the Roman Catholic Church as irrevocable. The ruling expelling him from the Order has the effect of reducing him to the status of a layman.

Unionists to see Brooke on devolution initiative

By Our Irish Affairs Correspondent

Unionist leaders are to meet Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for further talks after his keynote speech on devolution on Tuesday.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said yesterday that he and Mr Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party, were prepared to meet Mr Brooke again after initial discussions with him in the autumn.

Mr Molyneux, leading what has generally been a positive and warm response to Mr Brooke's speech both from politicians in Ulster and from party leaders in the Irish Republic, said he believed other political parties in Northern Ireland had now made significant progress in meeting Unionist demands.

Mr Brooke, in an upbeat assessment of the political stalemate in the province, had said he believed there was sufficient "common ground" for inter-party talks to begin, aimed at eventually creating some form of devolved administration.

Mr Molyneux interpreted the Secretary of State's comments in the speech on the Anglo-Irish Agreement as evidence that the Government may be considering a new agreement or a suspension of the treaty for a strictly limited period.

He said he thought Mr Paisley would accompany him

at a new round of talks although he had not contacted him directly. Mr Paisley is in the Cameroons.

However, government sources in Belfast, while welcoming the interest which the speech has generated, continued to point out that Mr Brooke has said nothing new on the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

The sources emphasized that the Secretary of State had said only that if talks between the "constitutional parties" in Ulster reach agreement on a devolved administration and that administration comes into being, then the Government would be prepared to look at the implications for the agreement.

Mr Brooke, speaking during a visit to Londonderry, underlined that he was encouraged by the reaction, but said it would be sensible to wait until the speech had been properly studied. It is believed that Mr Molyneux, for example, had still not read the text in full by yesterday afternoon.

Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, reiterated his call for talks but said that the future of the Anglo-Irish treaty should not be jeopardized in any way in the process.

Mr Hume said that talks should be held outside the framework of the agreement and without prejudice to anybody's position on the agreement.

Leading article, page 11

Morrison denies terrorist charges

Mr Danny Morrison, vice-president of Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, was remanded in custody at Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday on terrorist charges (Our Irish Affairs Correspondent writes).

Mr Morrison, who is Sinn Féin's director of publicity, was one of several people arrested on Sunday in a police and Army operation in west Belfast in connection with an alleged abduction.

Mr Morrison, who represented himself in court, faces charges of conspiracy to murder Alexander Joseph Lynch between January 4 and 8, of unlawfully imprisoning him, and of membership of the Provisional IRA.

He denied the charges and was remanded in custody until January 26.

A detective inspector told the court that on being charged in the early hours of yesterday, Mr Morrison said: "Both you and I know that these charges are unsustainable."

"As advised by my lawyer, I retain my right to silence. Throughout questioning you

have exploited my exercising that right and have drawn inferences which are unsupported and the court will see that."

Four other men, all from west Belfast, appeared separately on the same charges as Mr Morrison. The four were John Anthony Murray, aged 39, of Creelagh Park; Gerard Hodgins, aged 30, of Lenadown Avenue; James Terence O'Carroll, aged 27, of Andersonstown Park; and Daniel Caldwell, aged 33, of Colvaile, Poleglass.

They were also remanded in custody until January 26.

During cross-examination by Mr Morrison, the inspector told the court he was awaiting the results of forensic examinations on more than 1,000 exhibits found at the house where, it is alleged, Mr Lynch was held against his will.

The inspector said Mr Lynch was abducted on January 5 and rescued by the police and Army units two days later. He said he had identification evidence linking Mr Morrison with the house where Mr Lynch was held.

Guildford four inquiry

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

The chief inspector of constabulary and a former senior trade unionist are to join the judicial inquiry into the case of the Guildford four as lay advisers, Mr David Weddington, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

Sir Richard Barratt, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and Mr Alistair Graham, director of the Industrial Soci-

ety and former general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, join Professor John Smith, QC, of Cambridge University, as assessors.

However, the solicitor for Paul Hill, one of the four, criticized the appointment of a police chief to the inquiry: "He is not lay. He is interested," he said.

friend walked her dogs near by. Mr Aidan McGivern, for the prosecution, said that just after 5pm on October 13 the office of Ministry of Defence police at the Pontilias camp received a telephone call from Mrs Davenport, who said she had cut through the fence.

Ten minutes later she called again to report that she had cut the hole. Officers who went to investigate found a 6ft by 1½ft hole in the fence. While the damage was being

City of culture theme for stamp



Mr Paul Hogarth, of Cambridge, with his design for a new stamp recognizing Glasgow as the European City of Culture 1990. Behind him is the stamp's subject, the former Templeton Carpet factory on Glasgow Green. A first class stamp featuring Glasgow School of Art and the 37p with the carpet factory will go on sale from March 6.

Grant allocations

Extra £6m for 'mad cow' research

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A further £6.3 million for research into the virus that causes the "mad-cow disease" BSE, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, was announced yesterday by the Government.

Mr Robert Jackson, Minister of State for Science, said it was in addition to the £6 million allocated on Tuesday by the Ministry of Agriculture for research into containing the disease. The extra money is part of an increase of £73 million that the Department of Education and Science agreed yesterday for next year's science budget, totalling £897 million, that will be shared out by the five research councils among institutions. The increases will be spread as follows:

● The Agriculture and Food Research

Council's budget will increase from £74.57 million this year (1989-90) to £85.91 million;
● Economic and Social Research Council from £32.02 million to £36.01 million;
● Medical Research Council from £176.34 million to £185.71 million;
● Natural Environment Research Council from £123.46 million to £135.23 million;
● Science and Engineering Research Council from £404.96 million to £438.62 million.

The remaining increases are contributions to maintaining scientific excellence through the Royal Society, the Fellowship of Engineering and Support for the new Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology, at Manchester. The

allocation was made on the recommendations of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, under the chairmanship of Professor Sir David Phillips, of Oxford University.

In its advice on future work by the Agricultural and Food Research Council it said: "The most pressing priority is additional funding for the newly developed programme of slow virus research, designed in particular to improve basic understanding at the molecular and cellular levels of the BSE agent and its host interactions."

£1.5 million of the money going to the Economic and Social Research Council is being used to create a centre for economic performance at the London School of Economics to investigate why some firms prosper while others fail.

Ambulance dispute

Cook seeks to isolate Clarke

By Nicholas Wood and Tim Jones

Labour will today seek to exploit backbench Conservative divisions over the ambulance men's dispute, by tabling a motion intended to isolate Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health.

The move comes as the 18-week dispute grows still more bitter after the decision by crews in some areas to ignore managers' instructions and run their own 999 service from today.

The areas affected are those in which staff have been suspended or pay has been cut.

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's chief health spokesman, said, on the eve of a full-scale Commons debate on the pay deadlock, that Tory backbenchers should "speak for their constituents" and echo the overwhelming public support for a just settlement of the unions' claim.

The Opposition motion seeks to undermine Mr Clarke's submission that only a minority of ambulance men are highly trained lifers engaged in emergency work.

It describes them as providing an "essential emergency service", and notes that eighty per cent of all ambulance crews are "fully qualified to

provide skilled attention" to accident victims and other casualties.

On Tuesday, Mrs Thatcher said it was necessary to reward the most highly trained staff, but twice declined to endorse Mr Clarke's description of some ambulance men as "professional drivers".

That description, in a letter from Mr Clarke, has enraged the unions, and several Tory MPs are unhappy about Mr Clarke's abrasive tactics.

Mr Cook said: "We have sought in the motion to put on the record all the points about the ambulance staff that Ken Clarke has been denying throughout the four months of

the dispute." Ambulance men resented the Government's emphasis on higher pay for those with paramedical skills because it devalued the qualifications and abilities of many experienced officers, he said.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats' leader, also criticized Mr Clarke, calling him "the greatest single impediment" to the resolution of the dispute.

As the dispute intensified, with no sign of fresh talks between the unions and health service management, more police forces and Army units were last night called in to deal with emergency services.

In Strathclyde, local councillors supported plans for the introduction of an alternative ambulance service in the region, and called on the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to act similarly.

In Kent, police were preparing 21 vehicles to take over emergency ambulance duty, and more than 100 officers were expected to deal with as many as 300 emergency calls each day.

Surrey was also planning to use soldiers, from the Royal Army Medical Corps, who will be based at police stations throughout the county.

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Yugoslav suffers big chess loss

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Predrag Nikolic, joint leader after the eleventh round of the Grandmasters section of the Foreign and Colonial Chess Tournament was swept away in a miniature game by Artur Yusupov yesterday.

Yusupov, the Russian, crushed his Yugoslav opponent in 22 moves. It is rare in Grandmaster play to lose with such rapidity while playing with the white pieces.

The key to Yusupov's win was the sacrifice of a knight on his thirteenth move.

In the other three twelfth-round games at Hastings, East Sussex, Sergei Dolmatov, the Russian, drew with Murray Chandler, while Jon Speelman inflicted a heavy defeat on Boris Gulko, another Russian.

Michael Adams returned to his best form to win a subtle end game in 37 moves against Kevin Spraggett of Canada.

Points: Dolmatov 6½; Nikolic 6; Spraggett, Yusupov, Gulko 5½; Adams, Speelman, Chandler 5.

White (White) Yusupov (Black)
1 d4 e5 12 e4 f5
2 Nf3 Nf6 13 Qd2 Nf4
3 Bc4 c5 14 Qd4 Nf4
4 e3 d6 15 Qd4 Nf4
5 Nc3 c4 16 Qd4 Nf4
6 Bb2 c3 17 Bb2 c3
7 Qd2 c2 18 Bb2 c3
8 Qd2 c2 19 Bb2 c3
9 Qd2 c2 20 Bb2 c3
10 Qd2 c2 21 Bb2 c3
11 Qd2 c2 22 Bb2 c3
White resigns.

SAS defences are breached by grandmother with hedge trimmers

By Craig Seton

The defences of a camp used by the Special Air Services Regiment (SAS), one of the world's most accomplished anti-terrorist forces, were breached by a grandmother wielding garden hedge trimmers, a court heard yesterday.

Mrs Sylvia Davenport, aged 59, used the trimmers to cut out a section of a chain-link fence surrounding an Army training area at Pontilias, Hereford and Worces-

ter, where the SAS practises. Mrs Davenport pleaded guilty at South Herefordshire Magistrates' Court, Hereford, to causing £230 damage to the fence, belonging to the Ministry of Defence.

She said: "If I could get through the fence, so could the IRA. I am sorry. I did apologise to them, but I just had to make the point that security is not what it should be and I hope I have made it."

Mrs Davenport's home, the Old

Magistrates' Court, Abbey Dore, is only 100 yards from the perimeter fence of the camp, which is about 10 miles from the SAS headquarters at Strling Lines, near Hereford.

Several years ago, she was part of a successful campaign to prevent the SAS from diverting a public footpath which runs alongside the training base. She once complained that she had been overcome by CS gas used during a military training exercise at the camp as she and a

friend walked her dogs near by. Mr Aidan McGivern, for the prosecution, said that just after 5pm on October 13 the office of Ministry of Defence police at the Pontilias camp received a telephone call from Mrs Davenport, who said she had cut through the fence.

Ten minutes later she called again to report that she had cut the hole. Officers who went to investigate found a 6ft by 1½ft hole in the fence. While the damage was being

inspected, Mrs Davenport walked through the hole and asked a police officer "what he was going to do about it".

She was arrested and taken to the headquarters of the SAS (noted: Who Dares Wins). She was then taken to Hereford police station where she told officers she had used her hedge trimmers to cut the fence.

The magistrates adjourned the case until February 7 for reports

and Mrs Davenport was given bail. Outside court, she said: "I am very worried that security is so poor that somebody will go and blow up the kids while they are drinking in the bar."

The Ministry of Defence said it was not policy to comment on the special forces. "Security measures we do take include armed guards and police dogs and it may be naive for anybody to attempt to do this sort of thing."

CORRECTION

The Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by Mrs Thatcher and Dr Garret FitzGerald, not Mr Charles Haughey as stated yesterday.

By the way, the 1988 election was won by the Conservative Party, not the Labour Party as stated yesterday.

The 1988 election was won by the Conservative Party, not the Labour Party as stated yesterday.

Doctor accused of using NHS kidney in private operation

By John Young

A transplant surgeon was said yesterday to have deceived his colleagues at a south London hospital by taking a kidney intended for a National Health Service patient and transplanting it into a patient at a private hospital.

A General Medical Council disciplinary hearing was told that Mr Michael Bewick had agreed that the kidney, from a recently deceased woman in Lewisham, should go to an NHS patient from Brighton. Instead it had been given to a private patient at the Wellington Hospital in St John's Wood, north-west London.

Mr Bewick is one of three doctors facing charges of serious professional misconduct in relation to payments to donors. The others are Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist.

The charges levelled yesterday were specifically against Mr Bewick. They were that on November 19, 1988 he transplanted a cadaver kidney from a NHS patient, Miss A T of Lewisham, into Mrs C T, a private patient; that later that day he knowingly gave false information to Dr David Taube, consultant nephrologist at Dulwich Hospital renal unit; and that on or before that day he misled the tissue typing laboratory at Guy's Hospital by asking them to include Mrs C T as an NHS patient awaiting an operation.

Last month Mrs C T was identified as a Greek woman who had received a kidney from a Turkish donor, Mrs Hatice Anutkan. On that occa-

sion the transplant was understood to have failed.

Yesterday Dr Taube told the hearing that on the weekend of the November 18-19, 1988 he exchanged several telephone calls with Mr Bewick in which they discussed the availability of the Lewisham kidney and whether it would be suitable for any of the patients awaiting transplants in Dulwich.

They had discussed one patient but Mr Bewick then informed him that there were no other suitable patients in Dulwich. However, he had two other cross matches, in other words suitable patients, in Brighton. One was known to the hospital as Mrs M S. Dr Taube said he had been delighted that the operation should go ahead and that Mr Bewick should proceed.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC for the GMC, asked whether it had been agreed that Mrs M S should receive a kidney from the Lewisham donor. "Yes," Dr Taube replied. "Were you

satisfied that she was a suitable patient?" "Yes," Dr Taube said. "She was a somewhat older woman, aged about 53 and unfortunately had lost a kidney during a previous transplant operation which had failed."

"Did you on the 19th November ever become aware that Mrs M S had not received the Lewisham kidney?" Mr Henderson asked. "No."

"Would you have been content if you knew that the Lewisham kidney would go to a non-entitled private patient?" "No."

Asked by Mr Henderson when he first became aware that Mrs M S had not received the Lewisham kidney, Dr Taube said he thought it was on the following Tuesday.

"Did you learn that the kidney had gone into a non-entitled private patient at the Wellington Hospital?" Mr Henderson asked. "Yes," Dr Taube replied.

"What was your reaction?" "I was sad and upset because I felt that in a way I had been lied to."

Mr Anthony Arledge, QC for Dr Crockett, asked if it were the rule that any kidney recovered from the cadaver of a NHS patient should first be made available to another NHS patient. Dr Taube replied that it was.

Mr Roger Bell, QC, for Mr Bewick, told the hearing that there was no doubt that his client did transplant the kidney from Lewisham into Mrs C T, but he denied any deception.

The hearing continues today.



Mr Bewick: Facing charges at GMC hearing

'Hillsborough trauma' blamed

Male nurse jailed for rape

By David Sapsted

A male nurse who resuscitated a girl during last year's Hillsborough tragedy and tended others lying injured on the Sheffield pitch, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for a rape committed three weeks after the disaster.

Barry Clark, aged 35, from Ilford, east London, twice stabbed an 18-year-old bank clerk who was walking home from a party in Ilford and then raped her in a garden.

Mrs Patricia May, for the defence, said that the attack could be attributed only to emotional scars resulting from the Hillsborough tragedy.

The attack, which happened hours before Clark was due to choose an engagement ring for his girlfriend, was an "aberration," she said.

"He was in the thick of it at Hillsborough and used his medical skills to do what he could for stricken and dying fans. That whole experience had the most traumatic effect on him. If there is any explanation of why he carried out the attack it could be his involvement at Hillsborough."

The judge, Sir James Miskin, QC, the Recorder of London, told Clark: "It may be that drink reduced your capacity for control that night. This was an appalling crime. A decent, hard-working young man who had a knife stuck into her twice."

He said he was reducing Clark's sentence because of his pleas of guilty to charges of rape, wounding, driving recklessly and stealing a car, and because of his frank confession which spared his victim having to give evidence.

Mr Anthony Longden, for the prosecution, told the court that Clark stole a car from a woman and, when he saw his victim at midnight, stopped her and asked for directions, claiming he was lost. He then pulled a knife from his waistband and stabbed her.

He dragged her across the road into a garden. Her hands were cut as she desperately grabbed the knife blade and tried to wrench it away.

A neighbour saw her struggling and heard her screams but when he tried to dial 999, his call was held up and vital minutes were lost. Mr Longden said Clark stabbed the girl a second time and she feared she would be murdered.

After the attack, Clark drove away in the stolen car but was chased by police who eventually stopped and arrested him. He later claimed to have been too drunk to recall anything.

The court heard that Clark, twice married with two children, had convictions as a juvenile for five offences of indecently assaulting women.

Clark, a former operating theatre technician, worked for Barking and Havering Health Authority at the time of his arrest and was planning to marry a nurse.

Mrs May said: "He is filled with deep remorse and this horrific crime will be on his conscience for the rest of his life."

Beaming treatment for patient

DER JENSEN



Lenny Henry, the comedian, with a young patient at Westminster Children's Hospital yesterday after the launch of a comic strip, *Sammy Goes To Hospital*, published by the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, to help children prepare for a stay in hospital. The strip uses colour photographs to explain procedures. Health, page 9

Baby deaths riddle

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Experts investigating the deaths of six babies in a London hospital are worried that they may fail to find a common factor linking the tragedies.

The infants died of a pneumonia-like illness in the intensive care unit of the Brompton Hospital, Fulham, between Christmas and last week-end. They had been suffering from congenital heart defects and five had undergone operations.

The unit and three operating theatres have been closed since the beginning of this week, and paediatric admissions have been cancelled.

For the first time, a nationwide team of experts has gathered to work full-time on the investigation. It includes virologists, bacteriologists, toxicologists, government researchers and specialists at teaching hospitals and universities.

Post-mortem samples and hospital equipment such as ventilators, used to support the infants while they were in intensive care, are being analyzed. The investigators are looking for traces of any chemical toxins that may have infiltrated the equipment.

Drugs used to treat the infants are also being tested for contamination.

Scientists at the Govern-

ment's Centre for Applied Microbiological Research at Porton Down, Wiltshire, and the Public Health Laboratory Service at Colindale, north London, are also taking part.

Experiments on growing viruses in eggs, and tests on guinea pigs are being conducted to try to identify a causative organism. Results may take several weeks.

Some of the most sophisticated medical technology and computer systems are being employed to sift every detail of the circumstances of each infant's death. "It is like a police investigation, with det-

ective work requiring meticulous attention to detail," Dr Michael Rigby, consultant paediatric cardiologist at the hospital, said.

Doctors at the hospital said yesterday they had been inundated with offers of specialist help. However, the paediatric intensive care unit and operating theatres may have to be reopened before the answer is found. The hospital is a leading centre for the treatment of heart and respiratory disorders.

The chief suspect remains a rare virus which may have little effect on adults but is

lethal in babies. Most common viruses and bacteria, including those responsible for the recent influenza epidemic and for outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease, have been eliminated from the investigation.

"We are left with a diminishing number of possibilities, and it is on the cards that we may never find an explanation," Dr Harold Gaya, consultant microbiologist and infections control officer at the Brompton Hospital, said.

"It will be a long time before we are prepared to accept that conclusion and I remain hopeful that we will be successful."

Dr Rigby said: "We will all be very uneasy until an answer is reached. Finding the cause will be a great relief because then we can take steps to prevent a repetition. We may never know what happened, but my hunch is that a rare virus is responsible."

Inquests into the deaths of two of the babies, Robert Davies, aged eight weeks, born in Maidstone, Kent, and Roxanne Campbell, aged 19 days, born in Carshalton, Surrey, were opened yesterday at Westminster Coroner's Court, west London, and adjourned until January 17. Both infants died on January 6.

European data base could help diabetics

A Europe-wide scheme aimed at improving the care of people with diabetes, which afflicts 6.5 million Europeans, was launched in London yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

The programme, called Eurodiabetes, brings together physicians, scientists and software engineers from 15 centres under the European Community's Advanced Informatics in Medicine (AIM) initiative. It aims to

create an information base on the illness which will help cut the high cases of blindness, amputation and premature death among victims.

Details of the condition and each patient's history will be available to medical professionals.

The project is being co-ordinated by the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals in London.

Gang flees as Anthony, 13, lashes out

By Craig Seton

Police yesterday praised the bravery of a boy aged 13 who foiled an armed robbery at his mother's post office by punching one of three raiders in the face, forcing them to flee empty-handed.

Anthony Strapp, who was hit over the head with a truncheon and dazed during the attack, was in the rear of the village post office at Tidbury Green, near Solihull, when the three robbers burst in through the front as his mother, Mrs Linda Strapp, was serving three customers.

The men wore ski-type masks over their faces. One carried a handgun, and another a truncheon. As they ordered the customers to lie on the floor and demanded money from Mrs Strapp, Anthony raced in from the rear of the post office and tackled one of them, giving his mother time to raise the alarm by

pressing a "panic button". Anthony said yesterday: "As soon as I heard the commotion, I knew something was wrong. I opened the door and a masked man was trying to push his way in. I just began punching him in the face and his mask came away in my hand. I hit him about three times and he turned on me and hit me over the head."

"I must have been knocked out for a few minutes, because when I came round, I was lying on the floor and everyone was saying how proud they were of me."

Anthony, a pupil at Tudor Grange School, Solihull, was not seriously hurt. He said: "I think the hard rugby training at school has served me in good stead, but looking back, I could have been seriously injured. I did not realize they had a gun until my mum told me."



Mrs Linda Strapp and Anthony, who forced robbers to flee.

Killer tells of loving words to estranged wife before knifings

Triple-killer Rene Hillebrand told a jury today that he cradled his estranged wife Dawn in his arms and told her how much he loved her before stabbing her with a long-bladed knife.

Hillebrand, aged 21, from The Netherlands, had already stabbed his English wife's parents to death after failing to persuade her to return with him to Amsterdam.

He told the jury at the Central Criminal Court that his wounded wife was crawling around on the floor talking to him. "I said I felt sorry but I wanted to finish it for her so she did not finish in pain. I had to stab her a few times because she was so strong."

Hillebrand admitted beating Dawn, aged 25, during the six months before she left him.

He also admitted that when he confronted her on the night of April 7, at the home of her parents, Mr Alan Sturgeon and his wife Margaret, in Erith, Kent, he was armed with the knife and an imitation handgun. He claimed, however, that he had taken the weapons only to encourage the family to "talk things over."

Hillebrand, who denies triple murder and whose plea of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility has been rejected by the prosecution, told the court: "Her mother was cross at seeing me. She said: 'What are you doing here? Mr Sturgeon came running in, grabbed me and pushed me through the bedroom door."

"As he ran at me I pulled out the knife and he ran on it. I

didn't intend to stab him. He stood up and grabbed me again and pushed me to the floor. We started to fight and Dawn and her mother tried to pull him off. All three were at me. My wife bent my fingers back. I just wanted to push them off. I might have stabbed them as well."

When Mrs Sturgeon tried to use the telephone, he stabbed her and then stabbed all three again because they were moaning with pain.

His counsel, Mr Rock Tansy, asked: "Do you feel sorry for what you have done?"

Hillebrand, who repeatedly grinned behind a hand while giving his evidence, replied: "It's a bit too late now."

The trial was adjourned until today.

Rationing fear in wake of global warming alert

By Jamie Dettmer

Warlike food policies may have to be introduced in Britain if global warming causes dramatic distortions in the climate, the chairman of the Countryside Commission said yesterday.

Sir Derek Barber highlighted the dangers of global warming to Britain's farms in a speech in London after receiving Massey-Ferguson's 1989 award for services to agriculture.

He claimed there was a "distinct possibility" that the country's weather system could change within the next couple of generations.

"The distortions of food production throughout the world could be horrific," said Sir Derek, who was presented with his award by Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"It could lead to this country having

once again to accept food maximization policies last seen in Britain in the Second World War," Sir Derek said.

Global warming, caused by too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, is likely to start altering Britain's climate in a marked way within 30 years. "An anticipated warming of three centigrade will have the effect of pushing up the climate 500 miles northwards."

Sir Derek's warning about climatic changes was couched in a general criticism of the move in Britain towards "green" farming. There was, he said, a widespread "naïve interest" in green agriculture which could blunt the edge of British farmers' ability to produce economically.

"Care for the farmed landscape and, with it, the dependent wildlife is both an old and new interest to those who

own and occupy land," he said. Sir Derek said that the shift away from trying to maximize production has happened in only the last 20 years, but he said global warming would force a return to this approach.

He also warned against regarding organic farming, with its relatively low productivity, as a way to cut surplus production.

Without the use of farm chemicals to boost yields, "we should all start the slide down a starvation trail," he said.

He said that environmental benefits should be considered in all farming measures and advised that new policies be introduced now to improve the landscape before the need for maximizing food production overwhelmed concern about the environment.

© Peterborough Council, Cambridge-

shire, is to launch a "green charter" to exploit a growing awareness of "green" issues. The charter, printed on recycled paper and believed to be the first of its kind in Britain, will require council departments to consider the environment when making decisions and implementing policy.

Other measures include the development of alternative means of transport, the recognition of the links between the environment and public health, and a ban on the use of CFCs in building materials.

An application by a health care to dump thousands of tons of chemical waste in the North Sea has been criticized by environmental groups.

Fisons wants to renew a licence to dispose of up to 4,000 tons of chemical waste in sealed containers over the next 12 months. The firm says, however, it is unlikely that any waste will be dumped at sea.

A millionaire for half an hour

By David Sapsted

For a few moments, a young London surveyor was able to forget about his £2,500 overdraft after finding bonds worth £4 million in the gutter outside the Stock Exchange.

"I was a multi-millionaire for half an hour," Mr Martin Ritchie, aged 23, said yesterday after picking up four Certificates of Deposit, each worth £1 million in Throgmorton Street, London.

The bonds had fallen from the briefcase of a messenger who worked for a subsidiary of S G Warburg, the merchant bankers.

According to a Warburg spokesman, they are used to "oil the wheels in the ebb and

flow of the short-term securities market". Mr Ritchie, who saw the pieces of paper fall as he waited for a client on the opposite side of the road, immediately contacted the subsidiary company, Rowe and Pitman, to let it know he had the £4 million.

"They had already been searching for them," he said. "They sounded very relieved I had found them."

When a messenger arrived to collect the precious documents, he handed Mr Ritchie, who lives in Stoke Newington, north London, a magnum of Laurent-Perrier champagne.

Warburg pointed out last night that the bonds could not

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

Cash for trip to Australia

Three winners shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

Mr Roland Eccles, aged 60, of Sale in Cheshire, said he would put the money towards air tickets for Australia. "Our 27-year-old daughter, Alison, took a catering job in Sydney last year," he said. Mr Eccles, a retired British Rail engineer, is ringing master at Manchester Cathedral and hopes to take part in some church services during his holiday.

The other winners were Mr Raymond Stanbridge, of Luton, Bedfordshire, and Mr William Whyte, of Horley, West Sussex. Each receives £666.66.

Attack on plans to use more 'bail tags'

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

An extension of the Government's trouble-hit "electronic bail" experiment was announced yesterday to the decision of Labour MPs, penal reformers and probation officers.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the technical viability of the equipment had been proved and the Government now wanted to try the experiment, designed to reduce remands in custody, in a larger area to increase the number of defendants who might be tagged.

However, the project's critics accused ministers of throwing good money after bad in an attempt to revive an experiment which had been a fiasco from the start.

They said the cost of the trial at Nottingham magistrates court, where only 16 people, less than a third of the number aimed at, have been tagged in five months was about £12,000 a person - the cost of keeping someone in prison for more than six months.

So far only 39 people have been tagged at the three courts conducting the experiment.

Of these about half are now in prison having either absconded or allegedly committed new offences while on bail.

Mr Patten's announcement, in a written Commons reply, came as it was revealed that the 180-strong socialist group in the European Parliament, the biggest party at Strasbourg, has condemned the scheme.

A resolution says the trials may have breached the European Convention on Human Rights and urges the Parliament to conduct a formal investigation.

There was scepticism yesterday at the idea that a switch to a new court will increase the number of people tagged.

Mr Anthony Desburslais, clerk to Nottingham Justices, pointed out that the 20 Nottingham magistrates' courts were served by the largest lay bench in England and Wales.

Others said the Government's hopes had always been unrealistically high, given its condition that the devices should be fitted only to people who would otherwise be remanded in custody.

In Nottingham tagging has diverted from prison only 16 of the 1,700 people who have been given custodial remands.

Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow Home Secretary, said: "We always said tagging would prove a nonsense and an embarrassment. What we want is serious alternatives to custody, not gimmicks."

The £580,000 Home Office scheme began in Nottingham on August 14 and at the magistrates' courts of Tower Bridge in central London and North Tyneside, near Newcastle, shortly afterwards.

Under the scheme defendants are given bail on the understanding that they adhere to curfews as long as 23 hours a day. If they break the curfew the equipment automatically alerts private security guards.

have been cashed in or used to secure a loan, but said it was still "very happy and grateful to Mr Ritchie."

The Bank of England said that, in theory, the Certificates of Deposit could be cashed at banks on their due date, usually three months after issue. "Normally a bank would pay a Certificate of Deposit, but I'm sure they would be on the lost or stolen list very quickly."

"Unless the holder who walked into the bank could demonstrate he was entitled to them, then the bank that was being asked to hand the money over would be entitled not to pay."

Call for review of lighting on motorway network dismissed

By Ruth Gledhill

Campaigners called yesterday for a government review of lighting throughout the national motorway network. But the Department of Transport said there were no plans for such a review.

Little more than a quarter of the 1,858 motorway miles in England is lit, and this is unlikely to increase by more than a fraction over the next decade.

The Department of Transport is preparing a plan to light a large proportion of the M25 after a review of the motorway last year.

At present, 45 per cent of the M25 is lit, with a plan under way to extend lighting in some parts. The cost of

lighting the rest of the motorway will be about £9 million.

Special lights have been proposed to reduce the environmental impact on people living near by, many of whom objected to lighting at inquiries into the motorway's construction.

According to the National Chamber of Trade (NCT), which first lobbied for improvements in motorway lighting five years ago, the situation has barely improved. Eight motorways have a higher accident rate than the M25.

Mr Bernard Tennant, director general of the NCT, said: "We appreciate that money has to be found, but we are disappointed that more has not been found in all this time. We would

welcome any move to look at the problem and improve the situation."

He said particular danger arises when motorists drive through a section which is brightly lit and are then suddenly plunged into darkness.

In an NCT survey last year, 38 out of 41 police authorities said that they supported lighting on all motorways.

The Association of Chief Police Officers recommended that lighting should be extended to all motorways and installed when new stretches were built.

Chief Inspector Roger Curtis, chairman of the association's traffic committee, said yesterday: "Motorways are statistically one of the safest road systems of all. But they are far better

with lights to help prevent accidents and crime, and to improve visibility."

Mr John Cutbridge, south-east regional director of the Freight Transport Association, said one example was the M1, where there could be a case for extra lighting on northern sections.

"I would not argue exclusively for the M25 although it is the most pressing case in the South-east."

"If the Government is going to look at lighting on the M25, it would be sensible to look at a wider canvas," he said. "In an ideal world, every piece of motorway and every trunk road would be lit."

In 1988, 212 people died on motorways. Road studies have shown that lighting can help reduce night accidents,

in some cases by as much as half. Mr Edmund King, of the British Road Federation, said: "Lighting is a major safety factor particularly at night and in bad visibility."

The Department of Transport said that motorway lighting was "permanently under review". It said that there were plans for a further 80 to 90 miles of lighting in the next five to 10 years.

In exceptional cases, however, lighting will be installed where a strong case is made for a particular section.

The capital cost of installing lighting on unit motorways would be £155 million, with annual running costs of £10.3 million.

● Vauxhall acted swiftly yesterday to

reassure thousands of worried drivers by offering a guarantee on conversions to unleaded petrol carried out by its dealer network (Kevin Eason writes).

The company acted after drivers imitated the Automobile Association after reports that switching their cars to unleaded fuel could damage engines.

Engineers said that cars without hardened valve seats could eventually seize up after 5,000 miles unless conversions were properly carried out.

The Motor Agents' Association, which represents 13,000 garages, told motorists last night to have conversions carried out only by authorized dealers or MAA member garages to ensure that work was protected.

NHS 'not checking' that consultants fulfil commitments

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Tougher controls should be imposed on hospital consultants to ensure that they are not abusing their National Health Service contracts by doing too much private work, the National Audit Office said in a report yesterday.

Full-time NHS consultants are not allowed to earn more than 10 per cent of their gross health service salary from private work, but none of the 12 health authorities surveyed had ever called for an audited set of accounts to check consultant income. Nor did any of them regularly monitor whether doctors keep to their NHS contracts.

"Current arrangements do not provide assurance that all consultants are fulfilling their NHS commitments, and may not bring evidence of neglect to light," the report said.

All the authorities visited were adamant that the "great majority" of their consultants were working more than their contracted hours, although they admitted that a small number might be neglecting their commitments.

Three quarters of the districts reported isolated cases of suspected neglect. The report pointed out that although there is only limited evidence of abuse, the Department of Health and the health authorities have a duty to ensure that consultants' private practice does not conflict with their NHS duties.

It recommended that consultants' contracts should specify fixed NHS commitments, such as a specific number of operating theatre and clinic sessions, attached to a work programme. That recommendation goes slightly further than the Government's NHS reforms, which will give consultants fuller job descriptions and specify the time they devote to the NHS.

The National Audit Office report also said that if the the

private sector continued to expand, as part of the NHS reforms, it will increasingly come into conflict with the NHS unless consultant numbers rise. The private sector relies heavily on health service staff, with 85 per cent of NHS consultants doing some private work.

Nearly 50 per cent of consultants work full-time for the service, but they still have the right to work in private practice in their spare time for as much as 10 per cent of their earnings. A third of consultants have maximum part-time contracts. They are paid 10/11ths of the basic salary, and can do as much private work as they wish in the rest of

their time. Nine per cent of consultants work part time, earning between 1/11th and 9/11ths of the basic salary, depending on their commitments.

The report argued that the private sector had recruited many nurses from the NHS while making only a small contribution to the training of medical and nursing staff.

The National Audit Office found that treating patients in the private sector in an attempt to cut NHS waiting lists cost twice as much as treating them within the service. In 1987/88, the private sector carried out 30,000 in-patient treatments at a cost of £50 million, under contractual arrangements with the NHS.

● An independent advocacy system to monitor standards of care provided in people's homes should be set up as part of the Government's community care reforms, the National Association of Health Authorities has said.

The White Paper on health

reforms proposes that more people should be looked after in their own homes rather than in residential homes, but it outlines monitoring arrangements only for private and local authority care.

The association suggests that local authorities should create a mechanism to ensure that the quality of services in people's own homes is clearly specified and properly monitored, whether provided by the authorities or by the private or voluntary sectors.

Miss Yvonne Mouncey, the association's assistant director, emphasized that the monitoring should not intrude too overtly in people's homes. She suggested that where possible, a client's relative or carer would become his or her advocate, and could then appeal to an independent individual or group, who would have powers to intervene if necessary.

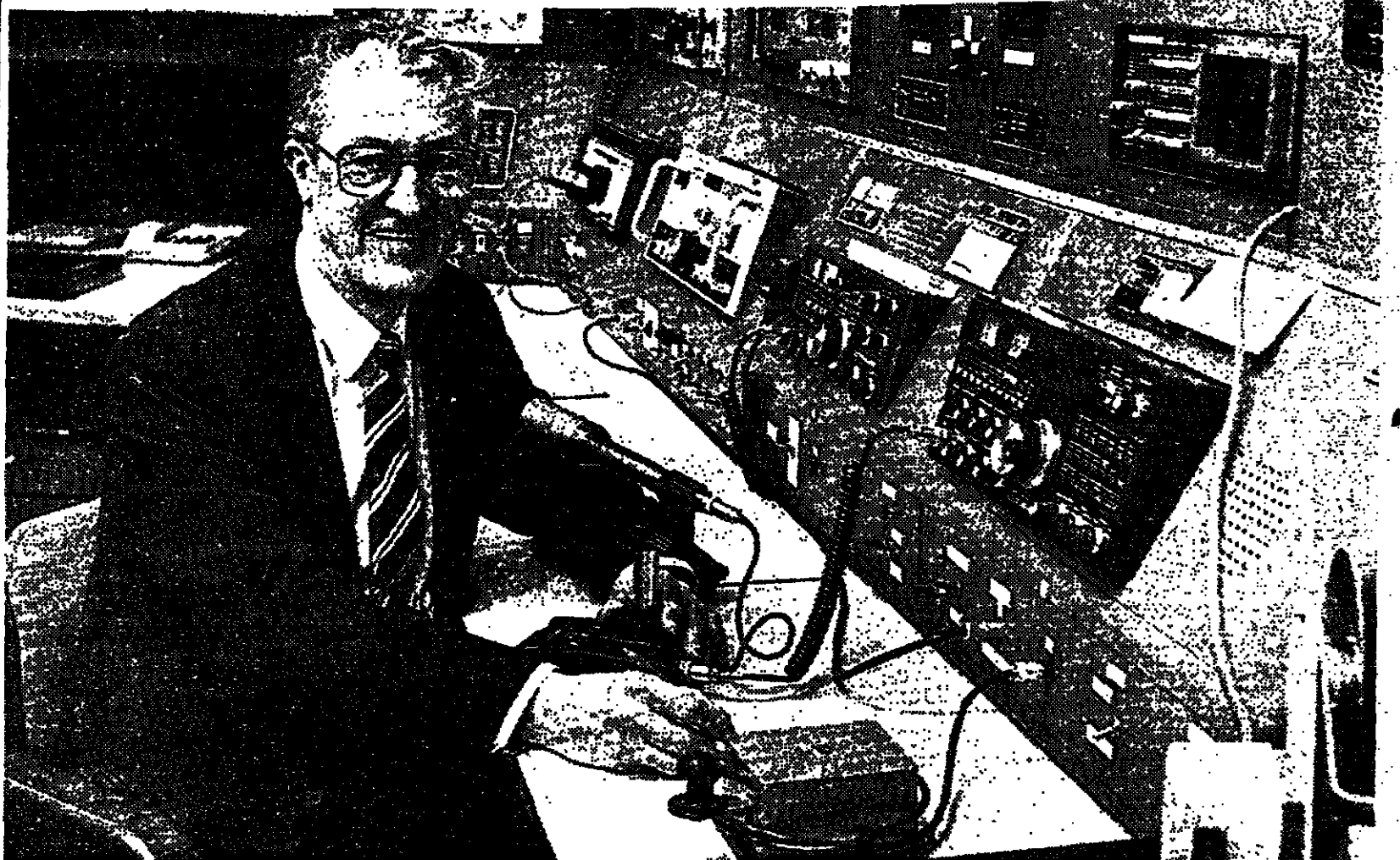
The association also criticizes the Government's decision to award specific community grants only for the mentally ill. "The lack of any guarantee that all the monies made available for care in the community will be used for the purpose is a matter of concern," it says in its response to the White Paper.

● A computer software package to help local authorities tackle child abuse was launched yesterday by Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the health minister. The package, provided free to social services departments in England and Wales, will enable social workers to call up information and guidelines to compare their own cases with expert research.

Mrs Bottomley said time and again in child abuse cases, the key is that somehow the relevant information is not available in the right place at the right time.

Radio ham signs off for the last time

STEPHEN MARKESON



Mr Geoff Voller in the Science Museum's high-tech radio station and, below, in 1955 showing children how the museum's first radio station worked.

The world's best known radio ham hangs up his earphones today for the last time after 35 years demonstrating radio communications at the Science Museum in west London.

Mr Geoff Voller set up GB2SM in 1955 to encourage youngsters to join the electronics industry. "It worked a treat. Hundreds of kids who watched me have become eminent electronics engineers, including the professor of electronics at Manchester University," Mr Voller said.

The most graphic demonstration of his scope came in the early 1970s when the South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha was struck by a hurricane and lost its conventional airdrops. "My contact there was able to contact the Foreign

Office and other relevant authorities to get help."

GB2SM was also the first to receive electrocardiograms over long distances, so that records could be sent from Tristan to the Medical Research Council, which urgently needed data, in moments rather than the six months it then took by ship.

Other museums have modelled radio stations on Mr Voller's, and he has kept in regular contact with museums in Stockholm, Oslo, Eindhoven, Ottawa and Chicago.

"The equipment has had to change a lot since 1955. Techniques which were purely experimental then have become commonplace now, particularly in transmitting radio facsimiles and teletype. It's a much smaller world now than it was then," he said.



Girl 'was force fed by nurse'

The head of a home for mentally handicapped children who force fed a teenage resident was struck off the nurses' register yesterday.

Mrs Linda Jones, a qualified nurse, was found guilty of six charges of misconduct by the professional conduct committee of the General Nursing Council in London. A further five charges were found not proved.

Mrs Jones, aged 40, of Marton, Blackpool, who did not attend the hearing, was said to have left a girl, aged 17, screaming hysterically after pulling her head back and holding her nose to make her eat a piece of ham.

Mrs Jones was later dismissed as head of care at the home in Rossall, Blackpool, where she worked between May 1985 and May 1986, the hearing was told.

Mrs Carline Wilkinson, a care assistant who worked with Mrs Jones, who was employed by the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde health authority, told the hearing that she saw Mrs Jones trying to force the girl, called Tina, to eat.

Mrs Wilkinson said: "Mrs Jones went over to her and held her hand over her nose, pushed her head back and tried to force feed her. Tina was hysterical. She was just screaming and very upset."

Mrs Wilkinson said Mrs Jones had also refused to allow the girl to go to a disco in the city under the care of an assistant from the home.

As a result, the girl had become upset and wet herself, and had been further punished. "Mrs Jones thought I was too lenient with Tina and that we should be a lot more firm with her. But with Tina it was inappropriate to continue punishment over any length of time. She simply forgot what she was being punished for," Mrs Wilkinson said.

Lockerbie investigations

Police of 5 nations compare notes

By Kerry Gill

Senior police officers from five countries yesterday gathered in a country hotel under a mantle of intense security to discuss the progress of the investigation into the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Up to 30 members of the inquiry team took over the Lockerbie House Hotel, barely a mile from the disaster site, in an attempt to piece together what Mr George Eason, the Chief Constable of Dumfries and Galloway Police, has described as a "massive international jigsaw".

They sat around a large table next to a television monitor showing the battered nose cone of the jumbo jet which landed on a hillside at Tundergarth, east of the town. Local people went quietly about their business, largely unaware of the summit taking place down the road.

The conference was attended by police and investigators from Britain, the United States, West Germany, Sweden and Malta. However, no communiqué was issued afterwards and the conference was marked only by the elaborate security measures taken beforehand.

Police with tracker dogs patrolled the grounds of the

30-room hotel before photographers were brought in by bus and given three minutes to take pictures.

All representatives of the media had first to gather at the police incident centre in Lockerbie to be given security accreditation.

There, each person was searched and all photographic and film equipment was electronically scanned before reporters were permitted to travel to the hotel, set in extensive grounds about half a mile from the minor Lockerbie to Boreland road.

Inside the Lockerbie House Hotel, journalists and photog-



Professor Wilkinson: Prospect of success in hunt.

raphers were scrutinized once again before being allowed into the hotel ballroom.

By mid-morning, ironically, the security cordon seemed to have vanished. Reporters were able to drive unhindered up the hotel drive, park next to the fleet of investigators' cars, and startle the policemen on guard.

Lord Fraser, the Lord Advocate and Scotland's senior law officer, was not present at the conference, but a spokesman from his office in Edinburgh said: "Investigative agencies and prosecutors in various countries maintain regular contact. Very positive lines of inquiry are being followed."

Before the conference, Professor Paul Wilkinson, an expert in international terrorism, said he thought that the summit was taking place against a "more promising background than a few months ago," and said he believed there had been breakthroughs offering a real prospect of success in finding the bombers.

Professor Wilkinson, said on Radio Solway, the local BBC station: "There has been a gradual increase in intelligence data that has led the

authorities to believe they are on the right trail. Evidence is beginning to accumulate."

The summit indicated that the authorities felt they had enough evidence to stand up in a court, he added.

Police have now made inquiries in 52 countries in their search for the killers of the 270 people, including 11 Lockerbie townspeople.

There was speculation that much of the conference would centre on Mohammed Abu Talb, aged 35, who is beginning a life sentence in Sweden for his part in terrorist attacks in Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985.

Talb, who has protested his innocence of any involvement in the Lockerbie bombing, has been interrogated by Scottish police. Earlier this week, he lodged an appeal against his sentence.

However, police have also named the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command as one group that may be involved.

The group's leader, Ahmed Jibril, denies involvement and has challenged Western intelligence agencies to prove that the PFLP-GC was behind the outrage on December 21, 1988.

New concert hall

Hallé to be based in £100m centre

By Ronald Faux

A new home for the Hallé Orchestra within a £100 million leisure and commercial development in the centre of Manchester was announced yesterday.

A concert hall in glass and steel, designed to be among the most impressive in Europe, will become the base for England's oldest professional orchestra in 1993. The move will end a 132-year association with the Free Trade Hall whose site will be used for a commercial development behind the old facade.

The design for the 2,500-seat hall and surrounding Great Bridgewater development, on a five-acre site next to the G-MEX Centre has come from Beazer Projects Ltd. The choice was made from 20 submissions from national and international developers.

Financial support for the scheme comes from the city, and the Central Manchester Development Corporation.

Mr Graham Stringer, leader of Manchester City Council, said the scheme would change the shape of the city and

provide a massive boost to the cultural and economic prospects of Manchester and the north-west region.

The development would extend to the canal basin near by and have an art gallery, a design museum, photographic gallery and a range of cafes, shops and public performance areas. The commercial development within the complex is to provide up to 2,000 jobs in 80,000 square feet of new office space.

Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, chairman of the Hallé Concert Society, welcomed the outline plans. He said the Hallé intended to remain a great international orchestra.

"Here is a chance to have a concert hall designed and constructed to the highest standards architecturally and acoustically. At this stage the prospects for the future look excellent," he said.

A start on the concert hall site will be made in October with the target completion date of late 1993.

The design and construction period for the three sites in the scheme will run from spring 1990 to spring 1994.

Attempt to name boy may widen

Police in Cumbria have not ruled out the possibility of a nation-wide check on all boys aged one to three in their efforts to identify the naked, burned and mutilated body of an infant found last month abandoned on a rubbish tip at Millom (Ronald Faux writes).

Yesterday 50 officers were briefed at police headquarters in Penrith before beginning the operation to check on all male infants in the county.

If their house to house inquiry fails to produce any clue to the child's identity, other forces may be brought into the investigation.

Appeal date

An appeal by the teenage mother Tracey Scott against a six-month youth custody sentence passed last week by Judge Pickles is to be heard by the Court of Appeal on Monday.

TV crackdown

A Post Office crack down on TV licence dodgers resulted in 30,500 being caught in the four months to the end of December, 26 per cent up on the same period in 1988.

Family charge

Albert and Ivy Williams, aged 73 and 69, of Mangotsfield, near Bristol, and their sons John and Francis, appeared before Bristol magistrates yesterday charged with conspiracy to commit burglaries. The case was adjourned.

Libel win

Mr Barney Eastwood, the boxing manager, was awarded £100,000 damages in settlement of a libel action against the *News of the World* at the High Court in Belfast.

Resort backed

The entrepreneur Mr Peter de Savary has been given the go-ahead by Penwith Council for his £200-million plan to turn the fishing port of Hayle, Cornwall, into an all-year holiday resort.

Times interview with Foreign Secretary

Hurd insists forced repatriation of boat people must go on

By George Brock and Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

More Vietnamese boat people are to be sent back to Vietnam against their will, the Foreign Secretary told *The Times*, at the same time reaffirming his intention to move "further and faster" on democracy in Hong Kong.

He would not, however, disclose his plans during a visit to Hong Kong this weekend, he said, although he acknowledged that this decision would disappoint hopes in the colony and that he would be accused of "kowtowing" to Peking.

He said Britain's aim was to achieve lasting continuity in local constitutional arrangements despite the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong to China in 1997.

The repatriation of 51 Vietnamese in December was not a one-off event, he said in the interview. "We have shown them (countries which object to the scheme) that this is not a pretence, and we are ready to take difficult decisions... so far as I can see we are going to need to go on doing that. Of course it's not easy or pleasant."

Among those who have strongly criticized the scheme are Washington and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. But, Mr Hurd said, he had discussed the matter with Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, and Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and had found more understanding than he expected. Any signs of a changed attitude, however, remained tentative.

The delay in resuming the compulsory repatriation of Vietnamese has prompted speculation that Britain may be waiting for a meeting of the steering committee of the International Conference on Indochina Refugees in Geneva next Thursday, at which Foreign Office officials will again seek acceptance of the scheme and try to persuade the UN High Commissioner to monitor it.

Mr Hurd insisted, however, that Britain had not deliberately held back a decision until the Geneva meeting. He had not made up his mind about the date when compulsory repatriations would resume, but it would not be before his arrival in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Mr Hurd also defended compulsory repatriation in a statement to the Conservative backbench foreign affairs

committee yesterday. "I believe that the repatriation of refugees is the only realistic course available," he said.

Mr Hurd has been under pressure from Hong Kong's Legislative Council to announce proposals for more of its seats to be directly elected in the last two elections under British rule, in 1991 and 1995. Sir Geoffrey Howe undertook to review the arrangements six months ago when he was Foreign Secretary, but Mr Hurd said he was not ready.

He hinted that Britain would wait for a short time, possibly a few weeks, before making an announcement. By then the Foreign Office will know the contents of the final draft of the Basic Law, which depends on a committee meeting to be held in Peking next Wednesday.

While reaffirming the intention to go "further and faster" on democracy, Mr Hurd hoped the changes would be ones that Peking could "accept and respect". "There is no actual crying need to take that decision now; it has to be taken reasonably soon," he said.

He emphasized, however, that decisions about democratization were for Britain, not China, and did not rule out the possibility of unilateral decisions if it should prove impossible to reach agreement with Peking. "It's our decision: it's not going to be a joint decision," he said.

Having said that Britain would "walk a tightrope" while Chinese attitudes remain "suspicious and defensive", he hinted that Britain's strategy rested on hopes that the mood in Peking would improve before 1997.

Mr Hurd will probably face disappointment rather than

hostility over the British Government's plan to give 55,000 heads of household the right to live in Britain with their families. Whitehall is not expecting a repeat of the large demonstrations which greeted Sir Geoffrey on his visit.

Members of both the Executive Council and the Legislative Council will press him to improve the package, which is smaller than some had hoped.

The scheme also faces continuing opposition from Conservative backbenchers. Mr Hurd told the foreign affairs committee: "We have to persuade Parliament that the scheme strikes a fair balance between our duty to Hong Kong and our duty to maintain effective controls on immigration."

Mr Hurd will arrive in Hong Kong just after Sir David Wilson, the Governor, returns from an important visit to China.

Mr Hurd said Britain was trying to persuade the Chinese that the concept of "one country, two systems", the basis of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, was in their interests.

Asked if it were still realistic, he said: "I don't know of any other. They certainly are in a defensive and critical mood, but at the same time they do hold to that concept."

Mr Hurd confirmed that he would not be announcing proposals for greater democracy during his visit and said his aim was to achieve continuity in the constitutional arrangements.

"There is advantage in having what's called the through-train, in having arrangements in force from 1995 which the Chinese will accept and respect," he said.

"It may not be possible... but it's worth just seeing if we can achieve some kind of continuity, but that's very much the first prize."

He acknowledged that he would be accused of "kowtowing" to Peking, but said the same people would criticize the Government if there were a lack of continuity. "We will clearly go faster (towards democracy) than was originally envisaged," he said.

In his statement to the backbenchers, he added: "We are certainly not out to pick unnecessary fights with China nor is it acceptable simply to let it be taken over by China and then do it."

Photograph, page 7

Cult family attempt to delay murder trial



The Landgren family from Ohio appearing in chains in a court in San Diego after their arrest on charges of the cult murders of five members of the Avery family. The Landgrens, from right, Jeffrey, his son Damon, and wife Alice, are opposing extradition, which could delay their return to Ohio for trial.

Right-wing disarray

Chirac threatened by party disaffection

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The Socialists can breathe a sigh of relief. Just when they were in serious danger of scoring an own goal in the popularity ratings, with their public squabbling over who is the fairest of them all, the principal right-wing opposition party has gone one better with a surprise move which could split it wide open.

The *Rassemblement pour la République* (RPR), the party of M. Jacques Chirac, the former Prime Minister, is falling apart under him. The main man among "les militants" is that he has failed to recover from the humiliating presidential election defeat inflicted on him by M. Mitterrand in 1988.

Extraordinarily, the odd couple who have told M. Chirac to stay out of it while they roll up their sleeves and try to revive the flagging RPR are two senior men who have never been known to agree.

M. Charles Pasqua, the former Interior Minister and darling of the party's right-wing, who has even flirted with the National Front, has little in common with M. Philippe Séguin, the

caring former Social Affairs and Employment Minister who is so far left as to be almost in the centre.

These two have nevertheless put out a joint statement declaring that the RPR "has never regained confidence in itself since its election defeat and therefore never been further from regaining that of the French people". This, they say, is because the party cannot come up with new

political ideas.

It is a problem they have in common with practically every political party in France. There is a growing lack of enthusiasm for the Socialists.

M. Michel Rocard, the Socialist Prime Minister, runs the country on what some see as a day-to-day basis.

The Socialist Party is busy dividing itself between the four or five men who have already persuaded themselves

and now have to persuade others that it is they who should be President when M. Mitterrand steps down which is not officially for another five years.

The Communists have similar problems. To their counterparts in the Eastern bloc, with a growing number of dissenters, they have to work out how to get rid of M. Georges Marchais, their old-guard leader.

Messrs Pasqua and Séguin plan to launch their campaign for new RPR thinking at next month's party congress. M. Chirac, aged 57, cannot take this lying down.

Between now and then, everyone who is anyone in the party will have taken sides. French public opinion has informed the pollsters it would like the three or four right-wing parties to present a united opposition front.

Instead, further divisions could be in store. The only happy man yesterday appeared to be M. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader. He said: "The Communists, the Socialists, the centre right and the right are disintegrating. The only party capable of responding to French people's needs is the National Front."

● **MADRID:** Right-wing members of the European Parliament, among them M. Le Pen, met here yesterday to review developments in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and to prepare for the Parliament's next session, according to a spokesman (Reuters reports).

Threat to best French vines

Paris — A plague has hit the French wine-producing districts of Bordeaux and Charentes which, if not stamped out, could severely affect the quality of some of France's favourite wines and cognacs (Susan MacDonald writes). It comes in the form of a fungus, which implants itself inside the trunk and branches of the vines, gradually killing them.

As every wine lover knows, the older the vines the finer the quality of wine produced. In the Bordeaux region, wine producers are reverent about the number of vines over 100 years old. The destruction of old plants producing fine wine is for them a crime.

But that is what producers are having to do, because the disease, named *eutypiose*, kills the plant when it begins to reach its quality years — about 15 to 25 years after planting. It was first

discovered in France in 1977, but reached potentially catastrophic proportions after the rainy season in 1988. In the Charentes region of western France, around one third of the vines are said to be contaminated, and in Bordeaux about 40 per cent.

The powerful French wine industry has held top-level research meetings to seek ways of fighting the disease. One of the chief difficulties of detecting diseased plants is that the fungus takes six to 10 years to develop.

Mme Bernadette Dubos, an expert with the National Institute of Agronomic Research involved in the talks, said a solution may have been found in the past two weeks. A new fungicide product, *Atenicep*, developed by Sandoz Laboratories, now appears to be effective in killing the *eutypiose* fungus.

Peking hardliners get top Hong Kong posts

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

China's two top men in Hong Kong are to be replaced by hardliners with little sympathy for the democratic aspirations of the territory.

Mr Xu Jiatun, the veteran director of the New China News Agency and China's ambassador here will retire later this month, marking the Chinese New Year with a farewell to seven years in Hong Kong.

Bringing in the Year of the Horse in the past will be Mr Zhou Nan, China's Deputy Foreign Minister. He is known as an uncompromising negotiator with long experience of dealing with Britain.

He helped draft the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong's future, and may adopt a more confrontational style.

Mr Ke Zaishuo, the leader of the Chinese delegation to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group supervising Hong Kong's handover, is due to retire at the end of February. Mr Ke, aged 65, who last October led the Chinese team to London for the group's first, acrimonious, meeting after China's crackdown on the democracy movement, will be replaced by Mr Guo Fengmin.

Mr Guo, aged 59, is a director of the influential Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office as well as a former

ambassador to West Germany and has a reputation as a doctrinaire hardliner.

It is the departure of Mr Xu from the New China News Agency that will have the most immediate impact. Mr Xu, aged 74, has acquired a reputation as a relative liberal and a friend of Hong Kong.

When Mr Zhou Nan takes over he will be heading not just a news agency, but a huge bureaucracy of mainland cadres devoted to increasing Chinese control in the territory.

It is the most open manifestation of the presence of the technically illegal Chinese Communist Party in the territory, and is regarded as the official voice of China. It controls all consular affairs and is believed to have comprehensive files on many Hong Kong people.

The agency has long been known to have close links with pro-China activists and trade unions. This summer it showed its hand by sacking the editor of a pro-Peking newspaper who dared to speak out against the June massacre.

In a submission to a visiting Commons select committee, a group of Hong Kong liberals wrote: "We consider that the presence of the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong now and after 1997 is a breach of the promise in the Joint

Declaration that the socialist system and socialist policies will not be practised in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

"The Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong should be dismantled and the New China News Agency should wind down its operations."

Observers say Mr Zhou is no more likely to heed that advice than his predecessor.

● **Vietnamese return:** A group of 123 Vietnamese boat people returned to Hanoi from Hong Kong yesterday under the United Nations sponsored "voluntary repatriation" scheme.

The group, which left on a special flight, brings to nearly 1,000 the number of Vietnamese to have returned voluntarily. Another 1,200 are waiting to leave.

Meanwhile, a group of women human rights activists, led by Liv Ullmann, the actress and United Nations Children's Fund ambassador-at-large, and Ms Pat Dorian, a former US Assistant Secretary of State, called for a moratorium of "at least a year" in compulsory deportations to Vietnam. They said conditions in Hong Kong's Vietnamese detention camps were "appalling" and called for better medical care.

Mandela release could prompt Thatcher visit

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Mrs Thatcher may visit South Africa later this year after the release of Nelson Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress, who is expected by the British Government to be freed early next month.

A senior government source said yesterday that the Prime Minister wanted to go to South Africa and that it was "quite possible" she would do so this year. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, may make a preliminary visit.

The timing of Mrs Thatcher's visit would depend on Pretoria taking further steps, because she would want it to take place in the context of continuing progress towards a solution to South Africa's problems.

It was important that it should not merely serve as a "pat on the back" to Pretoria over Mandela, but should help to point the way forward.

"It will not be a case of Mandela out, Thatcher in," the source added. It is thought that she will want the signs of progress to be strong enough to warrant using British influence to secure wider international recognition of the changes President de Klerk has brought about.

There is still scepticism in many countries about his longer-term intentions.

Britain believes that he intends taking further steps and that Mandela's release will not be an isolated event. He is felt to be making a genuine effort to find black representatives prepared to negotiate.

Most black leaders have called for the release of Mandela and all other political prisoners, the unbanning of the ANC, and the repeal of the remaining apartheid laws as a condition for direct talks.

It is not yet clear whether Mr de Klerk will move that far. Pretoria, for its part, has said the ANC may enter negotiations only if it renounces violence, which it has not done.

The source said Mr de Klerk

was not prepared to hand over power to the black majority right away. He was trying to bring about measured change and to prevent serious problems in South Africa from getting out of hand. South African state-run radio said yesterday: "It is only a matter of time before Mr Mandela's release is announced."

While there has been no official confirmation that Mandela will be freed, government sources have said his release might be announced in late January or at the opening of Parliament in early February.

The radio said the move had been expected since Mandela expressed support for peaceful development in South Africa after a meeting in July with Mr P. W. Botha, Mr de Klerk's predecessor.

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A daily commentary reflecting government policy said he would be freed on humanitarian grounds and because he could help create conditions for political negotiations.

Mrs Winnie Mandela, his wife, said on Monday he expected to be freed within weeks after more than a quarter of a century in prison for trying to overthrow white minority rule. The developments followed months of speculation.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Khmer Rouge in battle for city

Bangkok — After denying that Khmer Rouge forces had attacked the city of Battambang in western Cambodia, Defence Ministry officials in Phnom Penh yesterday admitted that an assault on the country's second largest city had begun (Neil Kelly writes).

The Khmer Rouge announced last on Sunday that it had launched its offensive two days earlier. The Cambodian Government statement said up to 200 guerrillas had launched a four-pronged assault on the city suburbs, had gained no ground but suffered heavy casualties. The Khmer Rouge said it had gained control of the city for several hours.

Korea borders offer

Seoul — President Roh of South Korea proposed open borders between North and South Korea yesterday and announced he would reduce military exercises (John Gittelsohn writes). He said: "Gone are the days when North Korea was our rival. Our people will be able to achieve our long-cherished goal of building a democratic, unified, prosperous and advanced nation before this century is out." Mr Roh said he welcomed the new year proposal by North Korea President Il Sung to open the borders, "even though hard-to-understand preconditions were attached to it". Mr Kim had demanded that South Korea tear down a concrete wall on its side of the demilitarized zone. South Korea denies the wall exists.

Two triplets are twins

Le Mans (AFP) — A woman pregnant with test-tube triplets has caused havoc among French bureaucrats trying to register the babies who were born naturally — but 11 days apart, it was disclosed here yesterday. The phenomenon occurred when Mme Raymonde Pommier, aged 37, who was treated for sterility for 10 years, went into a maternity clinic in this western city on November 5. A son, Damien, was born prematurely, weighing 1.5lb, but labour suddenly stopped and did not start again until November 16, when Guillaume and Alexandre were born. All three are doing well, but perplexed officials have registered the infants as twin boys with an older brother.

Bhutto hints at poll

Karachi — Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, facing a threat of mass agitation against her beleaguered Government from opposition parties, has hinted that she may call a mid-term election (Zahid Hussain writes). Miss Bhutto, who completed a year in power last month, told the BBC that although she did not favour mid-term polls she was not afraid of going to the people for a fresh mandate.

War stragglers emerge

Ban Hat Yai, Thailand (Reuters) — Two Japanese Second World War stragglers, now in their seventies, were plucked from their Thai jungle hideout by helicopter yesterday for an emotional reunion with relatives after 45 years in the wilderness. Mr Shigeyuki Hashimoto and Mr Kiyosaki Tanaka were taken to a military hospital for check-ups when they arrived in this southern Thai town after a one-hour flight from Yala province bordering Malaysia.

Last stand on the kitchen front by Spain's macho men

From Juan Carlos Guncio Madrid

After nearly a decade of sweeping social change, Spain is fighting a harsh battle over the last bastion of machismo — the Spanish household. Armed with a controversial 25-second television spot, Señor Felipe González, the Socialist Prime Minister, wants to make men get off the couch and start doing the dishes.

Predictably, the attempt has provoked heated debate in a country where many men boast they have never worn a shirt or stepped a floor. Women government officials

claim a radical change is already under way, but the stereotype is fighting back with a vengeance.

The campaign is a response to statistics showing that six out of 10 men never do domestic chores. A recent study by the government's Institute for Women established that those who do share the housework spend only two hours and 45 minutes on it a week, while their wives or live-in girlfriends spend at least six hours.

The television campaign is a clever approach to the problem: it shows a smiling Spanish yuppie while a male voice praises his virtues

as a modern, responsible father and a model citizen. "Furthermore, he has never broken a plate in his life. Of course. Because like most men, when he gets home, he does nothing."

The smile abruptly disappears and a plate smashes to pieces on the floor. "Smash inequality," urges the announcer, inviting men to roll up their sleeves and start helping out.

"It is a hint that we hope will spark a revolution," says Señora Carmen Martínez Ten, the energetic director of the institute. "Important changes are taking place for women in the public world, such as in jobs

and political rights, but attitudes at home remain archaic."

However, diehard macho Spaniards are vowing to keep tradition alive and accuse Señora Martínez Ten of violation of privacy and subversion.

"Feminists already got what they wanted — more jobs and government posts. Señor Javier Altamirano, a plumber, aged 45, says. "My wife's job is at home. Why should Señora Martínez Ten want to try to change life in my household?"

Señor Fernando de Miguñel, a prominent Spanish sociologist, takes it more calmly. The campaign,

he says, is just a fad and a real change remains unthinkable. "Men consider it a joke, a waste of government money," he says. "Curiously, women are adopting a paternalistic attitude and that, by their own definition, is a form of machismo."

According to Señor Francisco Umbral, a best-selling writer and newspaper columnist, "men in aprons inevitably provoke giggles. But this may change simply because cooking is in fashion. Plus, it has been demonstrated that the best way to get a girl to your bedroom is by inviting her to your kitchen."

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Secret revival of security agency alarms Germans

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

The bitter political row over government plans to restore a limited state security service in East Germany took a fresh twist yesterday when it was claimed that such an office had already been covertly re-established.

An East German newspaper *Der Morgen*, the organ of the Liberal Democratic Party, printed a facsimile of an envelope bearing the sender's details: "GDR Council of Ministers - Office for the Protection of the Constitution".

The sender's address was that of the former Office of National Security in the Lichtenberg district of East Berlin.

A spokesman for the East German Government later confirmed that an Office for the Protection of the Constitution was already being set up although he denied it was functioning. The spokesman could not say whether employees of the new office used to work for the Ministry of State Security. The Liberal Democratic Party, one of the main props of the communist-led coalition government, declared on Tuesday night that it was preparing to leave the ruling alliance.

Herr Manfred Gerlach, the

party's leader who is also East Germany's acting head of state, agreed to resign the party leadership yesterday after pressure from the rank and file. He had been criticized for his long co-operation with the previous régime.

The declaration also reflected complaints that the Government, in which Herr Hans Modrow is Prime Minister, was intending to restore undemocratic structures and said: "The old music is now being played again by a recast orchestra." Disagreement

over the Government's attempt to establish an Office for the Protection of the Constitution before the May election was a key reason behind postponement of the government-opposition talks on Monday.

The leading opposition group New Forum has said it will quit the talks for good if such an office is set up but the Government insists one is necessary to contain the activities of extreme right-wing groups.

Opposition groups fear that such an office would enable the hated Stasi secret police to make a discreet comeback.

The Christian Democratic Party has also said that it is thinking of leaving the governing coalition if the communists do not rule Socialist Unity (communist) Party does not act more democratically. *Der Morgen* quotes Herr Peter Koch, the government official charged with dissolving the existing Office of National Security, as saying that it would be foolish to dissolve something completely just to set it up again. Comments such as this suggest that the Government is seemingly prepared to forgo democracy in order to avoid such "foolishness".

● BONN: The recent disarmament initiative by Herr Gregor Gysi, the East German communist party leader, took not only the West by surprise, it also stunned Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, his own Defence Minister (Reuter reports).

Admiral Hoffmann told the weekly *Stern* magazine that Herr Gysi's proposal for halving troop numbers in East and West Germany by next year and calling for all foreign troops to leave German soil by 1999 left him "just as surprised as everyone else."

Honecker surgery

East Berlin (Reuter) - Herr Erich Honecker, the disgraced former East German leader, had a successful operation to remove a tumour from his right kidney yesterday, the official ADN news agency said.

"The patient is in good condition, considering the circumstances," the report said, adding that the operation had taken place at East Berlin's Charité Hospital.

The agency reported on Monday that Herr Honecker was suffering from kidney cancer.

Herr Honecker was first taken ill during a meeting of the Soviet bloc economic grouping, Comecon, in Bucharest last July. He was rushed back to East Berlin and rumours quickly spread that he was seriously ill.

Herr Honecker, aged 77, was toppled by mass demonstrations on October 18 after running the country for more than 17 years. He is being investigated on suspicion of abuse of power and could be arrested when he recovers.

Lithuanian gift to Kremlin chief



Mr Vadim Medvedev, the Kremlin's ideology chief (centre), receiving traditional hospitality at a farm near Vilnius yesterday.

Kohl fears new Berlin exodus as communists argue over reform

From Ian Murray, Bonn

The Bonn Government is increasingly worried about the way the political debate in East Germany is developing. Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, admitted here yesterday.

If reforms did not rapidly bring improvements to living standards there he feared that the mass exodus of its citizens to the West would accelerate beyond the present rate of almost 2,000 a day. To try to prevent that he said he would continue negotiations for a co-operation treaty and would, as promised, meet Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, at the beginning of next month.

He told his traditional new-year press conference that the arguments between the communist-dominated transitional Government and the opposition groups over access to the media ahead of the promised free elections on May 6 "fills us with growing concern".

The draft East German election law, published last weekend, seeks to stop all

foreign financial aid to political parties - a measure aimed specifically at preventing West German involvement. At the same time the communists are known to be making use of their dominance in the coalition government to hold office space, printing facilities and media time for the election campaign.

The Chancellor said yesterday that this was wrong. "The process of democratization with the goal of free elections in East Germany must now be continued without transparent manoeuvres and without hindrance," he said.

This meant that the new election law must be approved by the opposition. The opposition had to be given an equal chance in the election - "that means, for example, the unrestricted presence of the opposition on television, radio and in the newspapers of East Germany".

The Chancellor was also critical of the way in which the East German communists were trying to recreate the Stasi, the hated state security police, who were supposed to be disbanding. Keeping

such a force was contrary to the interests and hopes of the East Germans, he said.

As far as future economic co-operation, the Chancellor showed he was also concerned at the slowness of the East Berlin Government in opening the way for Western investment, through making a free market economy possible.

For these reasons he was determined to go ahead with his meeting with Herr Modrow at the beginning of next month. That would give a good opportunity to talk about the problems. If he failed to talk even more East Germans would decide to leave their country.

The Interior Ministry yesterday released figures showing that 14,226 East Germans had decided to move to the West in the first eight days of this year. This rate, approaching 1,800 a day, has been constant since before Christmas and is evidence that Chancellor Kohl's fears are justified. Should the communists succeed in dominating the elections there is strong reason to believe the disappointed East Germans will

flood across the border in much greater numbers.

Although he understands the need for rapid improvements in East German living standards, Chancellor Kohl seems unlikely to sign the formal co-operation treaty between the two countries until after the elections. Delaying until then would both deny Herr Modrow pre-election publicity and credit for negotiating the treaty and at the same time exert extra pressure on the communists to see that the elections are as fair as possible.

Recent polls, both by West and East research organizations, suggest that the East German communists are beginning to recover credibility after their purge of the top leadership. The most recent poll prepared by the East German Academy of Social Sciences shows they have 34 per cent support, with the local Christian Democratic Party next with just 7.9 per cent and New Forum scoring just 5.8 per cent. These results do not seem to tally with the popular support at demonstrations for reunification, but as yet this is

an idea which is rejected by virtually all the parties.

The Academy is communist-orientated, but whether the figures have been massaged or not they show that the party, which has considerable experience in such matters, is controlling pre-election publicity to its advantage. The opposition parties are newcomers to the political scene, with unclear platforms and little or no real party organization to compete with the communist machine. Herr Modrow has admitted that the party is unlikely to win an overall majority in the election, but at present the communists appear on course to be the dominant party in a coalition.

The improving position of the communists means that his meeting with Herr Modrow is causing trouble inside Chancellor Kohl's Government.

Count Otto Lamsdorff, chairman of the Free Democrats, the junior coalition partners, wants it cancelled on the grounds this would give publicity to the leading communist candidate. Frau

Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobson, the Free Democrats' general secretary, has also complained about the way the communists appear to be trying to manipulate the election. She has called on them to observe the ground rules of democracy and told them that they have "no pre-emptive right to government power".

To offset communist control of the media Herr Norbert Blum, the Christian Democratic Labour Minister, has suggested that the East German opposition groups should be given time on West German television and radio, which have large audiences in East Germany.

Herr Modrow is, nevertheless, still seen individually as a sincere reformer and credible leader by West German politicians. Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the opposition Social Democrat leader, has decided to meet him next weekend in East Berlin, despite some criticism from within his own party at giving the importance of the communist's leading candidate a further boost in this way.

Criticism grows of new Romania regime

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Amid rising discontent among students, old-style dissidents and aspiring politicians, Romanian's ruling National Salvation Front has announced that a new draft electoral law will be published next week after a national day of mourning for the revolution's victims declared for Friday.

The failure of the 145-member front to distance itself sufficiently from the old Communist regime combined with its enthusiasm to play a central political role have led to increasing criticism as the seven registered political parties jockey for power.

Much of the criticism centres on the prominent role being played by the Army in the running of the country and the front's determination to press ahead with elections as early as April, with its own candidates taking part.

Yesterday Mr Silviu Brucan, one of the front's leaders, a former ambassador to the US and UN under Ceausescu, sought to allay public fears and responded to criticisms of the Communists made on Monday by Mrs Doina Cornea, aged 60, the leading

Romanian dissident. "All of us were initially Communists - some were even leading members of the party - but they are now in the position of leaders not because they were Communists but because they were the very few who had the courage to oppose Ceausescu's dictatorship," he said. "Let the other political parties show as good credentials."

Mr Valentin Gabrielescu, a spokesman for the revived National Peasants Party, one of the better-organized groups, led the attack on the post-revolutionary rulers with the threat that his party - whose roots stretch back to the 1920s - would abstain from the poll unless the front agreed to postpone it until later in the year.

In an interview which reflected the rapid dissipation of the post-revolutionary euphoria, Mr Gabrielescu said: "We are very discontented and have already made an official protest to the National Salvation Front. We deeply doubt their stated intention to hold free and fair elections."

The peasants party, like other nascent parties, points to the lack of elementary

equipment needed for electioneering such as stationery, telephones, desks and photocopyers. Its leaders allege that the front maintains a monopoly on the main levers of power, especially the single Romanian television channel.

Mr Gabrielescu was scathing about the front's decision to use military tribunals to try members of the security forces, notably the hated Securitate secret police, who oppose the revolution. He shares a belief with other critics of the interim administration that the Army may

be keen to cover up the extent of its own early involvement in firing on unarmed demonstrators, before it changed sides to back them.

The peasants party spokesman claimed that the trials should have been staged in front of civilian courts to enable the public to partake, rather than having to watch selected proceedings which are now being shown on Romanian television.

Referring to the front's controversial decision to stand in the election of which it is supposed, in the absence of other competent bodies, to be an impartial arbiter, Mr Gabrielescu said: "What can you understand from their decision to take part? How can you take part if you are not a political party? In our opinion, the election will be a disaster if it is held in April."

The peasants party, which is fighting on a traditionalist and conservative programme, yesterday published its platform, which includes the reintroduction of a market economy and the restoration of property to the peasants. It said membership was open to all except those who held senior official

posts under Ceausescu's Communist dictatorship.

More controversial is the platform of the National Liberal Party, another political revival from Romania's democratic past. Its leadership has already called for the return of the exiled King Michael, who abdicated from the throne at pistol-point in 1947 and now lives in Geneva. It has also called for the abolition of the Romanian Communist Party.

The front has said that the King is welcome to return as an ordinary citizen but there has been no indication if he is willing to take up this offer.

Popular hatred for Communism is evident in many of the hundreds of slogans daubed on walls and windows in Bucharest. One of the largest, in red letters more than 2 ft high greeted Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, when he arrived last Saturday to hold a press conference at the Intercontinental Hotel. "Jos comunismul. Aruncati carnete!" it demanded. "Down with communism. Throw away your (party) cards."

Black Sea resort of Neptune which was shown on Monday and accompanied by an acid commentary on their appalling taste.

Revolutionary television commentators now love to point out the Ceausescus' humble origins, and many obscene jokes circulate around the dictator's start in life as a cobbler.

The cameras lingered over antiques and objects d'art, which, despite their obvious high cost, would have won prizes in any competition for kitsch. The highlight of the 40-minute tour came when the presenter picked through a pile of 365 silk brocade curtains, one for every day of the year.

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Economic hangover after the Ceausescu downfall

From Roger Boyes, Bucharest

In the corner of a ransacked palace squats the quintessence of the Romanian revolution: a teenager, Kalashnikov on his knees, half-puffing, half-chewing a Kent cigarette.

A month ago it would have been madness to smoke the American cigarettes that have become Romania's alternative currency. Bare shops emptied the official currency, the leu, of its meaning, yet Ceausescu banned the possession of hard currencies.

Special permits, rarely issued, were needed to enter hard-currency shops and the dollar black-market was confined to a very small circle whose main operators collaborated with the Securitate.

The devastating earthquake of 1977 brought tons of Western aid, and, for some reason, hundreds of thousands of cartons of Kent cigarettes which promptly became a safe reserve currency for Romanians.

No more. Under a revolutionary edict, Romanians are free to travel abroad providing that they have enough dollars

to finance their trip. And so, overnight, Romania has become (like Poland and East Germany) a nation of money changers.

Kents, for the first time, can be smoked with an easy conscience.

If only all Romania's economic adjustments were so straightforward. The country resembles a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, who first has to admit publicly to his problem, and assess and recount every detail before he can begin a cure.

The official statistics book shrunk year by year under Ceausescu because it is beyond even the most sophisticated computer stolen from the West to calibrate the lies. The targets were so unrealistically high that every factory engaged in active deception.

Despite the most elaborate piece of cosmetic surgery, the first three years of the present five-year plan (started 1986) shows a dramatic decline of the economy.

National income (the Soviet bloc equivalent of GNP)

reportedly grew by 7.3 per cent in 1986, dropped to 3.2 per cent by 1988 and yet was supposed almost to triple to 8.9 per cent in 1989.

These were just the reported figures. The real picture is still a mystery.

The one relatively reliable measure is foreign trade and foreign indebtedness, since other countries can blow the whistle on obviously faked statistics. These figures show that Ceausescu, by throttling imports, wiped clean Romania's external debt. At the beginning of the 1980s, Romania owed between \$10.5 and \$11 billion (£6.5 and £6.8 billion) to Western creditors. By the middle of 1989 Ceausescu announced that he had paid off every penny. There seems to be about \$300 or \$400 million owing to private banks, but nobody has openly contested the dictator's claim.

If the revolution dismantles the Ceausescu economic order without putting anything in its place it will have squandered an important opportunity.

New scandals on dictator's family

Bucharest press gives lowdown on high life

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Nearly three weeks after the revolution, Romanians are still being bombarded by their newly liberated media with mind-boggling disclosures about the excesses of the Ceausescu regime and its leaders.

The revelations of greed, cruelty, perversity and megalomania would have caused concern in any country, but they have proved doubly distressing in one so poor that many were forced on to a diet of stewed nettles and chicken's feet, and even a 60-watt light bulb was a luxury.

A prime candidate for intimate revelations has been Miss Zoe Ceausescu, said to be in her late 30s, the high-living daughter of Romania's excocted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena. A Bucharest newspaper said yesterday that she had had a long line of lovers, was a seasoned traveller and was almost permanently drunk.

Whenever she ran away from home her mother ordered a nationwide search, mobilizing the militia and secret police, *Therapist Liber* (Free Youth), an independent daily, said.

Miss Ceausescu was arrested hours before her parents were executed by an army firing squad on December 25. She and her playboy brother, Nicu, are in detention awaiting trial. No trace has been found of their adopted brother Valentin.

Therapist Liber said Miss Ceausescu fell in love very easily and her escorts ranged from government ministers to simple barmen. "When she saw a handsome man she wouldn't let him go until she had hooked him," it said.

The newspaper said she was a nymphomaniac who courted ex-convicts and saw that they were propelled to top positions in industry if "she considered them to be good lovers".

Yesterday's supplement to the leading daily, *Adevartul* (Truth), told how Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu terrorized the population of the picturesque lakeside resort of Snagov near Bucharest, where they had one of their many opulent residences. The article said the couple always referred to the locals as "worms" in their conversations with officials. They issued orders that during their brief periods in residence, cocks in the farmyards were not allowed to crow, dogs had to be stopped barking and church bells were prevented from ringing.

According to accounts by residents, Mr Emil Bobu, one of the dictator's aides, used to shoot with cartridges filled with salt anyone found picking up left-over vegetables after the harvest on land around the villa.

When the Ceausescus took over the residence, buildings and vegetation were bulldozed

over a wide area. Elena issued orders that no cereal crops were to be planted on the cleared land in case they provided cover for snipers.

Romanians said the article was further proof of the dictator's paranoia. This is traced to a conversation in the early 1970s when President Castro of Cuba supposedly informed Ceausescu of an alleged CIA plot to take his own life with a form of poisonous oil to be rubbed on his shoes. After that, Ceausescu introduced a system whereby his suits and shoes were incinerated at the end of each day.

A storehouse in which hundreds of new items of clothing and footwear are still kept, remains closed to journalists because it has been used to store gold items taken from his homes and offices.

The disclosures about the ruling family's life in Snagov came after a bizarre filmed tour of their residences in the

Black Sea resort of Neptune which was shown on Monday and accompanied by an acid commentary on their appalling taste.

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Viewers were shown the well-stocked wine cellar and given an account of how soldiers were ordered to plough up the sand every morning to make sure the beach was clean.

Prince's first visit home

By Jamie Dettmer

A Romanian prince flew to Bucharest yesterday aboard a relief flight to become the first member of the country's exiled royal family to step foot in Romania for nearly 40 years.

Prince Paul, a Paris-based property developer, emphasized that he was not going to Romania to proclaim the right of the royal family to return. "I don't think it is the time to state anything grand," he said.

"It will be the first time I have visited the country and I just want to see it for myself."

His planned visit nearly failed when the British airline chartered to operate the relief flight, which contained medical supplies and food, pulled out for security reasons after discovering that the prince would be aboard.

Air Europe complained to the organizers, the Relief Fund for Romania, about Prince Paul's presence and claimed that a full list of the 160 passengers was not supplied. It also objected to the large number of journalists planning to go on the flight who failed to provide details of their employers.

In a statement issued later, the airline said: "In view of the tense and delicate political situation in Romania and the total inability of the organizers of the charity to clarify who wished to travel and why, we felt we had no option but to stand down the mission."

Later, there were chaotic scenes at Gatwick airport when journalists, television crews and expatriate Romanians had to fight for the 97 seats aboard a last-minute replacement aircraft, a BAC-111, supplied by British Island Airways. The flight was delayed by almost two hours.

Mr Nicolae Ratu, a spokesman for the Relief Fund for Romania, said he could not understand the basis for Air Europe's decision to pull out.

He said: "We planned the flight weeks ago. Air Europe put a Boeing 737 at our disposal and we decided the best way to use it would be to invite expatriate Romanians and interested Britons to come along with 25 kilos each of essential supplies. Everything was proceeding smoothly until Air Europe's sudden change of mind."

Prince Paul was born in Paris in January 1920 after his father, Prince Carol, who now lives in London, ran off with and married Zizi Lambrino, a Romanian commoner.

Family planning: A British doctor will arrive in Bucharest today to help with a family planning policy for the country. Dr Tim Ruter, a consultant with the Marie Stopes organization, said Bucharest hospitals were facing a "critical situation with over 200 pregnant women turning up every day asking for an abortion".

January 10 1990

PARLIAMENT

£300m for disabled is not new money, says Opposition

A £300 million package of help for the disabled was announced in the Commons by Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security.

He said that this was new money and would be made available over the next three years.

The Opposition disputed that it was new money. Mr Michael Meacher said that most of it would be clawed back by cuts in other benefits. "It is not acceptable to transfer money from one group of claimants to another," he said.

Mr Newton said that his proposals were built in a practical and constructive way on what the Government had done over the past 10 years during which benefits for the long-term sick and disabled had "massively increased".

His proposals would bring extra help to 850,000 people in the next few years.

The extra amounts were £84 million in 1990-91, £138 million in 1991-92 and £213 million in 1992-93.

He linked them to the Government's proposals on community care and to a consultative document to be published shortly on training and employment services for disabled people.

Together with those moves, the "improved structure" of disability benefits reflected the Government's firm commitment to improving the quality of life for disabled people.

Mr Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social security, said that an improvement in disability benefits was desperately needed. But, after they had waited 10 years, this announcement fell far short of the real answer, a comprehensive disability income.

"Seven out of eight disabled people are left completely out-

side the state and for the remaining one in eight who are covered, virtually all the extra money will be met by savings or clawbacks on other benefits. Almost none is net new money to the social security system."

The £300 million cost of the new package of measures announced in October was largely accounted for by the £80 million cut in statutory sick pay.

The Opposition welcomed the new disability allowance, but only one in 40 disabled people would be eligible and, once again, a third of the cost would be clawed back by cuts in other benefits.

The new disability employment credit was extremely limited, reaching only one in 30 disabled people of working age. The whole of the cost would be covered by savings made from other benefits so that this was merely a transfer within the social security system.

As an income-related benefit, it would confine disabled people to low-paid jobs (Conservative protest).

The statement also contained two big losses for disabled people. Mr Newton was ending the build-up of new rights to earnings-related addition to invalidity benefit — a huge retrograde step for disabled people.

"The extent of their loss is made clear by the fact that the Government as a result of this cut... will have no less than £350 million by 1993."

"The significance of today's announcement is that it creates for the first time a two-stage approach to disability."

Two thirds of all disabled people — those aged 60 and over — will be treated as second-class citizens. That, and the huge cut in invalidity pensions, amounting to £350 million a year, was a promise of poverty for the elderly disabled.

The ending of a reduced earnings allowance amounted to a further important cutback to

the industrial injury scheme. The cut in the scheme would amount to no less than £40 million by 1992-93.

"The Opposition", he said, "welcomes any genuine improvement in benefits for disabled people."

But today's announcement with its distorting mirrors and clawbacks of savings on other benefits, and transfers between claimants within the social security system, is regrettably more political rhetoric and "hypocritical" than real substance.

Mr Newton said that he had rarely heard such an ungenerous response to a very substantial package of improvements.

This was not new money.

On the age-related addition to severe disablement allowance, there would be some offset in income-related benefits, but there would be a net increase in spending of about £50 million when the change had been fully effected.

If the earnings-related addition to invalidity benefits and the reduced earnings allowance had been left unchanged they would have built up entitlements in the next century (Labour MP: What's wrong with that?) which would have made it difficult to announce increases now.

Despite that, there would be a net increase in spending beyond that previously planned in every remaining year of the present century.

Mr Archie Kirkwood, Liberal Democrat spokesman on social security and welfare, said that there was a heavy emphasis on disabled people in work, and there was concern that those beyond the pensionable age would be ignored.

Mr Newton said that the Social Security Advisory Committee felt that the first priority for extra resources should be for those born disabled or handicapped, or those disabled early in life.



Lord Ennals (left) and Mr Timothy Raison, who are both former Foreign Office ministers, visiting yesterday one of the families of boat people whom the Government sent home compulsorily to Vietnam from Hong Kong last month

US 'shows more sympathy'

When the subject of the boat people was raised at question time in the Commons, Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, said there was increasing understanding in the United States of what Britain is trying to achieve in Hong Kong and that Britain and Hong Kong deserve more help and understanding from the international community than they had so far received.

Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland, South, Lab) asked whether Mr Hurd had had the opportunity to put to Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State, that it would be a good idea if the United States called off the Vietnam war and ended its trade and aid embargo on Vietnam with a view to stopping the flow of refugees.

Mr Hurd: I have discussed the whole issue of boat people and will do so again when, as I hope, I visit Washington about the end of the month.

Mr Hurd said later that US reaction to the return of the 51 people to Vietnam had been a good deal more moderate than some had feared it would be.

Further aid considered

The Government was considering what further assistance it could give to countries in East Europe in addition to the \$100 million (£60,600,000) already given to the international Stabilization Fund for Poland and financial help to Hungary.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons during question time.

He added: We will respond positively to these countries as they put in place political and economic reforms.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Canterbury, Con) said that since socialism had destroyed the economies of East Europe, would it not be best to advise them how to create liberal market economies?

Mr Waldegrave said that the Polish and other governments had made clear that the last thing they wanted was Stalinist or socialist economies.

Mr John Maples (Leisham, West, C) said that private investment by Western commercial companies would be of immense help to Poland and other East European countries.

Mr Waldegrave agreed. One of the demands made by Mr Lech Walesa on his visit here was for private investment. The Government was now helping

EASTERN EUROPE

Poland and Hungary to liberalize their economies and with privatization and the establishment of capital markets.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford, West, Lab) said that help to East Europe must not be at the expense of British industry, especially the textile industry.

Mr Waldegrave said that dumping as defined under international regulations was not permitted. The best thing we could do for those countries trying to join in world trade was to open our markets to them.

Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley, East, Lab) said that a realistic approach would be along the lines of the Marshall Plan because, if their economies were not helped to work, democratization would not work.

Mr Waldegrave said that he agreed with the analysis but not the analogy.

Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) said that cultural links should be encouraged.

Mr Waldegrave said that one of the first demands from East Europe was for English-language teaching.

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on for-

eign affairs, said that it was time for a more appropriate and comprehensive aid plan for the newly democratized countries.

The Government could take the lead by bringing together the rich Western countries in putting together a sizeable and imaginative package.

Mr Waldegrave said that Britain had contributed £250 million to Poland alone this year. It was Britain that had taken the lead.

Later, Sir Russell Johnston, Liberal Democrat spokesman on East-West relations, said that the European Council of Ministers should think about helping not only the newly democratized countries in central Europe but also the Soviet Union.

President Gorbachev was in trouble and it was in everyone's interest to help him.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, said that the changes were not solely down to Mr Gorbachev but also to Western Europe and the United States standing firm when the dictatorships seemed impregnable.

The Soviet Union's problems could not be solved by financial aid. They were problems of nationalities within the Soviet Union and an economy that was drifting downwards.

Forlorn hope, page 10

Security moves at airports outlined

The comprehensive measures taken to tighten airport security after the Lockerbie disaster nearly 13 months ago were outlined to MPs by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, when he moved second reading of the Aviation and Maritime Security Bill.

The Bill is to give effect to international anti-terrorist agreements and to provide for new security measures for ships and ports similar to those for aircraft and airports.

He said that the Lockerbie investigations had already cost £7 million. The police had taken 14,000 statements, recorded about 16,000 items of property and more than 35,000 photographs had been taken. "We have been determined to learn all we can."

Immediately after Lockerbie all aspects of airport and aircraft security had been tightened. By April, there would be electronic checking of all passes issued to employees at airports.

The Aviation Inspectorate had been doubled and new requirements had been introduced for recruiting and training security staff.

Money for research and development of equipment and techniques had been doubled. Progress was being made towards the screening of all hold baggage on all international flights and the Government was strengthening powers covering aviation security.

The Aviation Inspectorate would be given more flexible and effective means of enforcing directions so that deficiencies in security could be remedied on the spot, if necessary by stopping operations until that had been done.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said that safety must be top priority, but the Bill defined the Department of Transport as the competent authority. "The department had a lamentable record and had been totally inadequate in carrying out its safety responsibilities."

There had been no investigation into the department's handling of the warning it received about the Lockerbie bomb.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister. Debate on Opposition motion on the ambulance dispute.

Second reading for Scottish Bill

There was an unopposed second reading for the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Bill in the Commons on Tuesday night after an Opposition motion to delay the Bill a second reading was rejected by 253 votes to 213 — Government majority, 40. The Bill aims to

integrate training, economic development and environmental improvement into two new bodies, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, funded by the Secretary of State.

Those bodies would replace, respectively, the Scottish Development Agency and the Highlands and Islands Development Board, and also the training agencies for the two areas.

The Bill also provides for the eventual dissolution of the five Scottish new town development corporations and the transfer of their assets and liabilities.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Comecon to embrace the free market

Sofia (Reuters) — Comecon, the Soviet-led East European trading bloc, yesterday decided at a meeting here to move towards a market-based system to replace four decades of rigid central planning and barrier trade, delegates said.

After a two-day session, the Prime Ministers of the 10 Comecon states agreed to change gradually towards a trade based on convertible currencies and world market prices, they said.

A commission set up to draft changes to the Comecon statutes will make proposals next month and will meet in Prague in mid-March to discuss them, Czechoslovak officials said.

Comecon, whose members are the seven Warsaw Pact nations plus Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam, has until now decreed who exports what to where and at what price, and its accounting has been done in "transferable roubles" which have no external value.

Mr Georgi Pirinski, the Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister, told reporters that the step-by-step move towards trading in hard currency and at world prices, first proposed last month by Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, would get under way in 1991.

"The transition has to be gradual to take into account balance of payments shifts and other negative aspects... We are looking for a soft landing and not a hard landing," he said.

Mr Ryzhkov told Soviet and Bulgarian journalists that Moscow had proposed a three-year transition period, but Czechoslovakia had suggested five years, reporters present said. It was not, however, clear whether any compromise had been reached.

The meeting of the Comecon council here was the first since a tide of changes swept through East Europe late last year, loosening the communist grip on power in the area and opening the way for Western-style democracy and economics.

"The political situation has changed sharply, and there is

broad unanimity among the European members that we have to move towards a market-type integration," Mr Andrei Lukashov of Bulgaria, chairman of Comecon's executive committee, said.

In a closing speech, Mr Georgi Atanasov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, said the session had lived up to predictions that it would be "a turning point in the whole development of our organization."

But Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Prime Minister of Hungary, which will be host to the next prime ministerial session, said members still differed on exactly what new economic systems should be adopted.

"On many items our positions are not the same. We think monolithic unity will disappear," he told delegates.

Cuba, still a hardline communist country, made clear that it had reservations. "Introducing the market should in no way mean a move toward anarchy in production; recognizing a certain degree of private ownership does not mean this should have a main role in society," Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told the session on Tuesday.

An anodyne communiqué said the meeting "underlined the necessity to decidedly renew the whole system of mutual co-operation and the mechanisms of multilateral co-operation."

Czechoslovak officials said they still differed from the Soviet Union on the way the pricing in hard currency should work, and that Moscow's proposal could hit smaller countries dependent on Soviet oil and other raw materials.

Mr Václav Klaus, Czechoslovakia's Finance Minister, told journalists that, if hard currency was to be the basis, Czechoslovakia would like to see the Soviet Union open its internal market to imports.

Mr Stepan Sitáň, a Soviet delegate, said: "We would agree on pricing and payment conditions with each country on a bilateral basis, but prices must come closer to world market values."

Markov's widow hopeful

By Michael Knipe
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Annabel Markov, the British widow of Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian emigre killed by a poison pellet in London 12 years ago, yesterday expressed confidence that Bulgaria's new leaders would fulfil their pledge to investigate the murder.

Mrs Markov, who has long believed that the Bulgarian Politburo ordered her husband's assassination, said she is not seeking retribution.

"I just want them to admit responsibility for what they've done," she said in Sofia yesterday after meeting Mr Aleksandr Lilov, a senior Politburo member, who is part of the party's reformist wing that has assumed control since Mr Todor Zhivkov, the veteran Bulgarian Communist leader, was ousted last month.

Asked if Mr Lilov made any acknowledgment that Bulgaria's former hardline leaders were linked to her husband's death, Mrs Markov said: "There was not a specific admission. But he said this had been a terrible time for Bulgaria, and things had happened that shouldn't have happened."

Mrs Markov said Bulgaria needed to make a break with its Stalinist past by acknowledging the mistakes of the old regime, "to build a kind of society where this could never happen again."

Mr Dimitar Zhulev, the Bulgarian ambassador to Britain, told Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, on Tuesday that a commission of inquiry was being set up.

Mrs Markov said Mr Lilov



Mrs Markov: Not after retribution for husband's murder.

had expressed a firm desire to help resolve the mystery surrounding her husband's murder. "He gave the impression he would like the inquiry to happen as soon as possible."

Mr Lilov described Markov as one of Bulgaria's finest writers and pledged that for the first time Bulgaria would publish *The Truth That Killed*, his posthumously collected memoirs. These include

the text of a number of Bulgarian-language broadcasts he made from London on the BBC and Radio Free Europe.

She said what her husband had written about Zhivkov was mild compared with what is now appearing about the ousted leader. "But this was enough to get him killed then because it was impossible to talk about Zhivkov as an ordinary person."

Hungarian ban on political advertising

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

As Hungary's 28 officially registered political parties gear up for the country's first free elections in more than 40 years, controversy has erupted over the role of the largely state-controlled broadcasting media's reporting the campaign on a fair and independent basis.

An official media watchdog commission charged with overseeing radio and television news reporting yesterday placed a complete ban on all paid political advertising until January 23, when it hopes to implement an ethical code of conduct on campaign coverage. The election is set for March 25.

The ban, however, was rejected immediately by at least two influential opposition parties, the Alliance of Free Democrats and Social Democrats, which wanted to launch their campaigns this week. They say that the ban only helps the chances of the ruling Socialist Party which is better known and financed than the opposition.

In addition, the head of the official media commission is Mr Imre Pozsgay, the influential Minister of State and the Socialist Party's powerful second-in-command, who last week was also appointed to run his party's entire election campaign.

"The ban is deleterious and violates the principle of equal chances," a spokesman for the two opposition parties said. He noted that equal access to the media will be a crucial factor in the election as many of the new parties are not well

known outside the Budapest area.

Not surprisingly, the Socialist Party has said that it accepts the advertising ban.

The 15-member multi-party media commission itself has aroused considerable suspicion since it was formed last year as it had the power to hire and fire editors, change programmes, and determine editorial content, imposing what many journalists said was merely multi-party censorship.

Prague (AP) — A total of 72 people were killed and 266 seriously injured during the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, the *Lidové Demokratické* daily said yesterday in the first official disclosure of a casualty toll.

Quoting a report by the Czechoslovak Prosecutor-General, the daily said the fatalities had occurred by September 3, 1968 — 13 days after the Soviet-led invasion.

Instead of one-party censorship which existed under the communist regime.

Mr Pozsgay, who had resigned as head of the commission last year after announcing his candidacy for President, was recently persuaded to assume the post again under a re-organization scheme which many people claim now gives him even more authority.

Since then the state television network has been the scene of turmoil and political infighting which has already led to the resignation of the director and yesterday the

editor-in-chief of the television news division, as various forces and factions fight for control in the vacuum left by the abolition of a central state authority.

According to a new law, all political parties are to receive government funding, based on membership, with part of the money being allocated to finance the election campaign.

But the high cost of paid political advertising will make free air time on the widely watched evening television news essential for opposition success in their first national election since the Socialist (former communist) Party.

Meanwhile, the Socialist Party has given the first details of its election strategy, announcing that it will name candidates in all the individual constituencies, as well as county and national lists, for the new 400-member multi-party Parliament.

A party spokesman told journalists that the main campaign themes would be attaining "stability and progress" in a society freed from poverty and building a modern Hungary linked to Western Europe, all within a left-wing perspective which has completely repudiated Stalinism.

The Socialists, who have seen their membership shrink to 50,000 from over 700,000 since their transformation from the communist party, ruled out any coalition with the newly-formed Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, which comprises the Socialists' hardline, old guard of orthodox Marxists.

Albania says it will resist foreign pressure to reform

By Our Foreign Staff

The Albanian communist party yesterday firmly ruled out joining the rest of Eastern Europe in introducing democratic reforms.

The party newspaper, *Zeri i Popullit*, said: "Those who think the time has come to intervene in Albania after the changes in Eastern Europe should know Tirana will continue along the path of socialism, and no force can prevent that."

Albania would not allow anyone to interfere in its internal affairs, it said, and denounced what it called "a slander campaign from abroad"

aimed at overthrowing the Government.

Zeri i Popullit dismissed allegations that four ethnic Greeks, the Prassos brothers, had been tortured and killed for trying to leave the country and for advocating Greek religious freedom. It said exiles were taking advantage of the allegations to urge Albanians to join the East European wave of revolutions.

It criticized "reactionary circles" in Greece, the press in eastern Yugoslavia and Albanian emigres.

Former King Leka, Albania's exiled monarch who has urged his

countrymen to overthrow the hardline communist regime, was an "arms and drugs dealer" who has fled to South Africa, the party newspaper claimed.

Albania has stalled on a Greek government request to prove that the four Prassos brothers are alive.

A Greek government spokesman said yesterday that the Albanian Government did not object to the request by a senior Greek diplomat to meet the brothers but refused immediate access to the family.

An Albanian Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary told the Greek

charge d'affaires in Tirana that allowing immediate access to the brothers would signify "a lack of confidence by Greece in the Albanian authorities". Mr Prokopis Pavlopoulos, the Government spokesman, said in Athens.

The Greek charge d'affaires had asked Albania's Foreign Ministry for permission to meet the brothers after Archbishop Scraphim, the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, said they were tortured and murdered while trying to flee Albania last October. Last Friday the Albanian Embassy in Athens

screened a video of the family celebrating the new year. The embassy identified the family as the Prassos brothers and relatives.

On Tuesday Mr Antonis Samaras, the Greek Foreign Minister, asked Albania to prove the brothers were alive. At a press conference yesterday, representatives of northern Epirot associations of North America, Canada and Australia condemned what they called inhuman living conditions in Albania, especially for the estimated 400,000 ethnic Greeks living there.

Spectrum, page 8

SPECTRUM

Tyrant of Tirana

THE TIMES PROFILE

RAMIZ ALIA

As Communist regimes tumbled throughout Eastern Europe at the end of last year, the American business magazine *Fortune* advised potential investors what to look out for before committing their money. "Romania: One of the last really nasty family dictatorships is destroying a once promising economy," *Fortune* foretold. "Pray for a pushch." And then: "Albania: Xenophobic, dirt poor, and constitutionally forbidden to borrow abroad. May be worth a look next century."

But events have speeded up. With the pictures of the bullet-riddled corpse of Nicolae Ceausescu fresh in everyone's minds, people want to know: can tiny Albania (population: 3.1 million) survive as the last communist bastion in Europe?

We know even less about Albania than we do about Romania, but some clues as to whether the regime can last may lie in the history of Ramiz Alia, its president and party chief.

Alia was born in the northern Albanian town of Shkoder in 1925. His parents were Muslims who had fled from the Kosovo, the predominantly Albanian-populated area of southern Yugoslavia. He was a teenager, living under the not-so-benign rule of the self-proclaimed "King" Zog, when Mussolini invaded Albania on Good Friday 1939, an act of unprovoked aggression about which the western democracies did nothing. Zog and his family fled the country, ending up in the Ritz Hotel in London, where Zog paid his bills in gold bars. Zog is long dead, but his son Leka has been issuing appeals to the Albanian people from his farm near Johannesburg, South Africa. Albanian monarchists have not rushed to raise their heads above the parapet.

It is claimed that Alia joined the partisans, led by the communist Enver Hoxha, as a teenager. The movement soon established itself as the leading force fighting the Italians and then the Germans, who took over the occupation of the country after Italy surrendered in 1943. In the same year Alia, then 18, became a member of the Albanian Communist Party.

Alia inherited a tradition of genuine independence, plus fierce nationalism. The Albanian partisans proudly claim that they pushed the Germans out at the end of 1944 without outside help. This is only partly true, but what is of crucial importance is that the Soviet Army never set foot in Albania during the Second World War. The communist-dominated government which took power in late November 1944 under Hoxha was not put there by Josef Stalin,

who initially distrusted Hoxha. In Stalin's scheme of things, Albania was supposed to be a protégé of Josip Tito's Yugoslavia. But in 1948, Stalin broke with Tito (partly over Albania) and so did Hoxha. It was in this year that Alia joined the Central Committee of the Party of Labour (as the Communist Party had been renamed). His big promotion came in 1956: shortly after Khrushchev's rapprochement with Tito, Alia was made a candidate member of the Politburo.

It was also in that year that Alia accompanied Hoxha on a visit to China. He took part in a long meeting with Mao Tse-tung, which was when, Hoxha later claimed, Mao's "revisionism" became apparent to the hawk-eyed Albanians. Alia also spent a few days in North Korea with Kim Il Sung, the world's longest surviving Communist dictator. A year later, as Khrushchev was energetically wooing Tito after the Hungarian uprising, it was Alia who accompanied Hoxha to the Soviet Union. When the Russians tried to censor one of Hoxha's anti-Yugoslav diatribes, Alia went to the printers to try to rescue his text. The fact that Alia failed seems not to have been held against him.

Alia became the key negotiator in the Albanian team battling with the Russians. He was with Hoxha at the meeting in November 1960 where the final rancorous break came — and even stayed behind to conduct rear-guard skirmishes after Hoxha fled in fear of his life. A year later Alia was elevated to full membership of the Politburo, and in 1962 he was sent to Peking to try to persuade the Chinese to hold the line against any compromise with the Russians over the Sino-Soviet split.

His rise to the leadership came in 1981, when Hoxha broke with Mehmet Shehu, his oldest and apparently closest colleague, and the man who had been widely expected to be Hoxha's successor. Shehu allegedly committed suicide. He was denounced as an agent of several foreign powers, including Britain, and there was an extensive purge of his followers and relatives, who controlled both the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior.

A year later Alia was promoted to the presidency and in 1983, when Hoxha became ill, he took

over many of his functions as leader of the party. When Hoxha died in April 1985, the Alia succession proceeded like clockwork. Alia's whole experience has been within a fanatically hard-line Marxist-Leninist political machine. Hoxha's career was littered with the corpses of his foes, real or alleged. Alia could hardly have survived, much less reached the top if he were not a true believer.

But this does not mean he is out of touch. His foreign experience, though limited to communist countries, has been unusually rich — more than 30 years of dealing with tough characters like Khrushchev, Andropov, Mao and Deng as the representative of a very small and poor state, with very few cards to play. No one could go through this and not have learnt a trick or two.

The recent changes in Soviet policy are unlikely to have any direct effect on Alia. He is not like East Germany's former leader Erich Honecker: a declaration of non-interference by Moscow does not weaken him, because he has not depended on the Russians. Nor is he a Ceausescu: he has not squeezed the population dry to pay off foreign debts, because the country had none. He has not destroyed a previously flourishing economy — Albania has always been very poor.

Following the overthrow of Ceausescu, the Albanian embassy in Paris put out a statement which said, in essence: what has happened in Eastern Europe is nothing to do with us; it is not a crisis of socialism, because those states were not socialist; they were revisionist; we are socialist and intend to stay that way. The claim that Alia's Albania is different, at least ideologically, has considerable substance to it.

There are few signs of any liberals in Tirana, the capital, although a novel attacking malpractices by the Sigurimi, the secret police, was published at the end of last year. Nor is any Havel figure known to be in the wings (he, or she, would have to lie very low). The army is largely made up of conscripts, and it is not known how it would react in a domestic emergency (like the Sigurimi, it has been subjected to frequent purges).

Under Alia, Albania has

moderated its foreign policy, opening up greatly to its Balkan neighbours, and even participating in a Balkan Foreign Ministers Conference in Belgrade. Tirana has maintained a low-key policy on the potentially hot issue of the Kosovo, in spite of Alia's bitter denunciations of Yugoslavia in past decades. Diplomatic relations have been established with all but four countries in Europe. One of the exceptions is Britain.

If one looks at the factors which have led to the overthrow of regimes in other East European countries, what does this mean for Alia? There is no freedom of the Press in Albania, but access to information is not as restricted as, say, in Romania under Ceausescu, or North Korea. Most Albanians can watch Italian, Greek, or Yugoslav television, and are much better informed about foreign policy disputes than other communist countries. People may be bored, but no more so than before Alia.

The regime has proclaimed a policy of egalitarianism and seems to have stuck to it to a large extent; people have to work very hard, but are probably unable to tell if the fruits of their labour are being unfairly appropriated. Alia and his fellow leaders have certain obvious privileges (villas, cars, private beaches), but there is no evidence of blatant corruption.

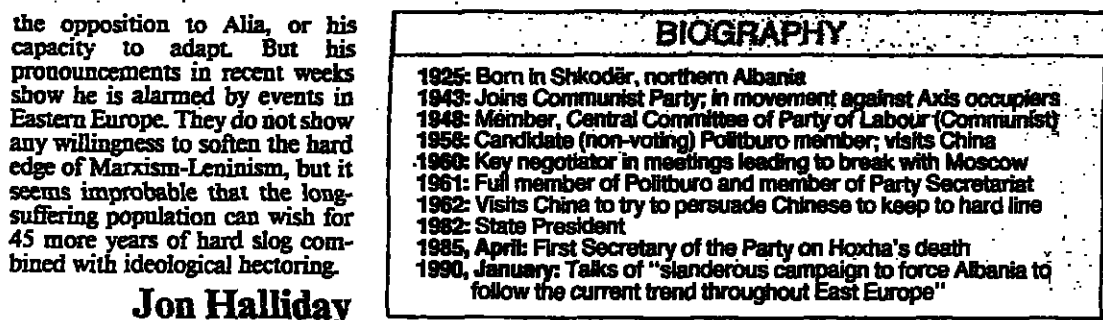


Religion is unlikely to provide a focus of discontent, the religious institutions were proclaimed closed in 1967, and Islam has always been rather lackadaisical in Albania. An Albanian Solidarity is as improbable as an Albanian Khomeini.

Albania is not a member of the Warsaw Pact, or Comecon. It is thus not a "domino" in the way Bulgaria, or even Romania, was. We do not know the strength of

the opposition to Alia, or his capacity to adapt. But his pronouncements in recent weeks show he is alarmed by events in Eastern Europe. They do not show any willingness to soften the hard edge of Marxism-Leninism, but it seems improbable that the long-suffering population can wish for 45 more years of hard slog combined with ideological hectoring.

Jon Halliday



BIOGRAPHY

1925: Born in Shkoder, northern Albania
1943: Joins Communist Party; in movement against Axis occupiers
1948: Member, Central Committee of Party of Labour (Communist)
1956: Candidate (non-voting) Politburo member; visits China
1960: Key negotiator in meetings leading to break with Moscow
1961: Full member of Politburo and member of Party Secretariat
1962: Visits China to try to persuade Chinese to keep to hard line
1982: State President
1985, April: First Secretary of the Party on Hoxha's death
1990, January: Talks of "slender campaign to force Albania to follow the current trend throughout East Europe"

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Tate's re-hanging judge

The Tate Gallery closed down this week. And yes, this means the end of 20th-century art as we know it.

For Nicholas Serota, the director of 16 months, is doing his whirling dervish act inside, undertaking the first comprehensive re-hang of the national collections of British, modern and contemporary art for 20 years.

This is not just a matter of shifting the bedroom furniture around to put the zip back into our relationship with the collection. The doors will open again on January 25 to a radical new display which will profoundly affect both taste and the market in the 1990s.

Rumours are that the much-loved William Blake room has been spirited away; that the clinical white walls of the 1970s

ums erected by the Victorians, giving the effect of a tatty trade fair.

Next came the minimalist approach, whereby curators covered the walls in surgery white or porridge, hung the paintings knee-high with a "tasteful gap" between them, and, in the belief that information detracts from aesthetic enjoyment, attached the briefest of captions.

Finally came the designer Eighties, pioneered by the fearless "hang 'em high, hang 'em low" Timothy Clifford. First he transported Manchester's City Art Gallery back into the days of bustles and toppers by applying rich period colours to the walls, introducing aspidochelons, and subordinating the works to the overall effect. He continued with a bolder

palette as director at the National Galleries of Scotland. Now, with the new Sainsbury wing scheduled to open at the National Gallery next year and the British Petroleum-financed Tate project (£300,000) this month, we are entering the sponsored Nineties, and their look is about to be revealed.

In making his selection of works, Serota faces further challenges, as he inherits the tastes of his predecessors. In a celebrated clash between David Hockney and Sir Norman Reid, the Tate's outgoing director in 1979, the artist claimed that the museum was failing to buy as "a museum of record", being biased "in favour of joyless and soulless and theoretical art".

"They have been trying to find work to fit in with their theories instead of looking at what is being done and fitting in with that," he said, adding his condemnation of what he saw as a cheese-paring policy. "It is cheating the nation if we are simply going to end up with a collection of cheap art. The cheap stuff will go in the cellar in the end, and they will be forever trying to fill the gaps at greater and greater expense."

The past three decades have seen three dominant decorative creeds. First came post-war prefabrication, whereby temporary structures were put up within the barn-like muse-



Taste test: director Nicholas Serota has a daunting challenge

During this period, the gallery was widely criticized for buying "the bricks" — a pile of exactly that, by the American artist Carl Andre.

The next director, Sir Alan Bowness, continued the international and highbrow emphasis. His illustrated catalogue, last reprinted in 1988, ends with a chapter on minimalism and conceptualism, thus giving no hint of the triumphant return of figurative painting during the decade.

As to filling in the gaps, Serota's official purchase grant is frozen at £1.8 million: a sum which does not go far in a market where the record for David Hockney is £352,000, and even the acclaimed paintings by the untested young Glasgow school go for £10,000. He is contemplating trying to raise funds for an important painting by the 18th-century artist Zoffany, at more than £3 million.

During the great Serota re-hang, the Turner collection remains open to the public, as does a corridor through the site, leading to the shop. A reconnaissance reveals not one drop of surgery white, but much woodchip wallpaper

Painted in various shades of terracotta. There is no sign of the post-impressionists, who used to take pride of place in the first galleries visitors came to. Instead, there is a room devoted to the English landscapist Paul Nash. "Angel of Anarchy", a zany bust blindfolded by scurves, by the British surrealist Eileen Agar, has taken its place among the works of Salvador Dali and Max Ernst.

Stanley Spencer's "Resurrection" — relegated for years to a corridor above the basement stairs — can be glimpsed in glory at the far end of a chapel-like gallery. But the most dramatic changes are taking place deep in the heart of the building. Here Serota will beckon his visitors, before sending them out on his chosen routes: "a simple chronological sequence" which will provide "a skeleton which may be followed backwards or forwards in time from the Tudors to the present". Entrance to this inner sanctum is barred by a sign saying "hard hat area". When January 25 comes, Serota is well advised to keep one on.

HEALTH

Case for kid gloves

A stay in hospital can be traumatic for parent and child.

Anne-Marie Sapsted reports on a new campaign to ease the agony

Hospitals have come a long way since the psychoanalyst James Robertson made his graphic films in the Fifties demonstrating the agonies suffered by a two-year-old handed over to a nurse by her mother. But around 400,000 children are admitted to hospital each year, with a further three million having to visit for consultations or treatment, and the experience can still be traumatic for parent and child alike.

As part of its long-running campaign to raise awareness of the emotional needs of child in-patients, the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital (NAWCH) this week launched a comic to help prepare children for going to hospital. It stars Sammy, a boy admitted for an operation, and follows him from admission to discharge.

The full-colour photographs were shot at Greenwich District Hospital in London, using real hospital staff and featuring Mandeep Verdee as Sammy. Seven-year-old Mandeep knows the hospital well, for as an asthmatic he has been treated there on several occasions. "We have been publishing material for parents for some time," explains Pauline Shelley, press and information officer for NAWCH, "but we haven't published anything specifically for children before, and we wanted to have something modern and up-to-date for children aged four to seven. We did some research and found that to be bright, realistic format was what children responded to best."

Parents will also get a lot out of it, Shelley says. "They can become extremely anxious about what is going to happen to their child. They've often had a bad experience themselves as children, and they have no idea how a proper children's ward operates these days."

NAWCH was formed in the early Sixties by a group of young professional mothers who all lived on Prince of Wales Drive in Battersea, south London. They had read about Robertson's pioneering work observing and filming the effects on children of contemporary hospital practice, which dictated that parents should hand their children over to the professionals and interfere as little as possible. Prevailing wisdom was that parental visiting only upset the child and disrupted ward routine. No matter how young the child, visiting was restricted at best to half an hour a day and at worst to half an hour a week — or even, in extreme cases, a month. Robertson's film of small, abandoned figures huddled behind the bars of their cots makes disturbing viewing.



Looking on the lighter side: extracts from *Sammy Goes to Hospital*, a comic launched this week to prepare children — and parents — for the experience

Peg Nelson, one of the founders of the group and still an active member of the executive committee, recalls: "We contacted James Robertson to ask how we could help put his ideas forward, and he told us to start on our own patch."

"We went to our local hospital and discovered that paediatricians there were already sympathetic to Robertson's views and had begun to allow mothers unrestricted visiting. Very quickly we had several doctors working with us."

In 1959, two years before NAWCH was started, the Department of Health had published the Platt Report on the welfare of children in hospital, in response to increasing concern among both doctors and parents that a

hospital stay could cause lasting psychological damage to a child. The report recommended that children should be nursed at home whenever possible; that parents should be able to visit and share in the care of their children in hospital; that overnight accommodation should be provided for parents; that staff dealing with children should have special training; that there should be opportunities for play and education in hospitals; and that children and adolescents should have separate wards, outpatient clinics and waiting rooms in accident and emergency departments.

More than 30 years later, the last recommendation in particular has still not been implemented in the vast majority of hospitals, and there

is still much to campaign for. "I recently analysed 200 calls from parents to our national office to find out what their concerns were," Shelley says. "More than half wanted to know if they had a right to stay with their child in hospital, and were expressing worries about whether the hospital would allow it. Basically it comes back to individual hospital policy. The Department of Health has continually said that the Platt recommendations should be taken on board, but there is nothing in legislation."

Even in hospitals which theoretically have facilities for parents, ranging from foldaway beds to purpose-built accommodation, there are subtle ways, Shelley says, of discouraging their use. "Staff sometimes don't mention there are facilities for parents to stay. The mother who turns up with her three-year-old may want to stay but not like to ask."

The association's view is that hospitals should provide facilities for every under-five entering hospital to be accompanied by one parent. "Our guidelines are that about 75 per cent of five to seven-year-olds will have their parents with them, and about 50 per cent of eight to 11-year-olds," Shelley says.

In 1982, NAWCH carried out a nationwide survey of hospital accommodation for parents and children. Four years later it revisited 153 black spots to check on progress. Just over one in 10 still had restricted visiting periods, only two-thirds were described as "welcoming" to parents, and facilities varied considerably. Only a third had a separate sitting-room for parents; in more than half, parents had to share toilet facilities with patients, and in two-thirds they had to share bath and shower facilities with patients. A third of parents had to make their own arrangements for simple necessities such as drinks, a seemingly minor problem unless you have had to sit for hours on end with a distressed child who will not let you out of his or her sight.

Other areas of concern are the fact that more than half the hospitals in the country make no provision for play and education for children in hospital. Up to 60 per cent of the over-12s are nursed on adult wards where, as Shelley points out, there may be distressing sights and sounds around them, and there are restricted visiting times. Most parents are still forbidden entry to the anaesthetic room, despite plenty of evidence that it benefits the child.

"An area of prime concern is accident and emergency departments, which are particularly stressful," Shelley says. "Children are almost always separated from their parents."

While there is no doubt that the desired improvements would cost money, Suzanne Goodband, general manager of children's services for the Riverside Health Authority in London — a unique position in this country — has found that there is also a shortage of trained children's nurses. "We have to remember that the parent is the primary carer of the child, and that our role is to help them. If a parent is properly prepared and supported, then half our job is done, but there is a desperate shortage of staff to do this."

Shelley says: "Our major task now is to be the watchdog for children's health services. Children are not even mentioned in the Government's NHS reorganization bill."

Belson adds: "You can still go on to any children's ward in any hospital on any day and still find children who are distressed and alone."

"It's a question of parent pressure," Shelley says. "It's like fathers being excluded from the labour ward. There are still many myths to overcome."

For more information and details of publications and local branches, contact NAWCH, Argyle House, 29-31 Euston Road, London NW1 2SD (01-833 2041). Sammy Goes to Hospital is available from the above address, price 50p.

First Lady's eyes

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

After last year's gruelling American election campaign, Barbara Bush had every reason to hope that this year she could enjoy a less stressful time as presidential wife. Unfortunately, her thyroid gland has determined otherwise. She had to spend the past 10 days as an outpatient at the Walter Reed Army Hospital, undergoing treatment for infiltrative ophthalmopathy, a very trying complication of thyrotoxicosis (an overactive thyroid gland), for which she was originally treated at the same hospital in March. Infiltrative ophthalmopathy causes protrusion of the eyes and weakness of the ocular muscles, so that blurred vision becomes a problem and, in severe cases, double vision occurs.

There are several causes of over-active thyroid, but when the signs and symptoms of overactivity, such as weight loss, tremor, excitability, irritability, sweating, and a rapid, sometimes irregular pulse, are associated with eye symptoms, the condition is known as Graves disease (after a 19th-century Irish physician).

Usually, as the other thyroid signs and symptoms are controlled — in the case of a woman of Mrs Bush's age this would have been achieved by taking radioactive iodine — the eye

symptoms — prominent, staring eyes and ocular weakness — regress, and in most cases disappear. But in a few cases, as with the First Lady, the eyes continue to get worse; this constitutes the complication known as infiltrative ophthalmopathy. The eyes become progressively more prominent, projected forward by an increase in pressure in the orbit caused by an excess of orbital tissue. The weakness of the eye muscles is due to lymphocytic infiltration into the muscles, so that their tone and balance is lost.

Infiltrative ophthalmopathy occasionally occurs independently of other thyroid troubles, or it can either precede them or follow previous successful treatment; in the latter case the time gap has been known to be as long as 20 years. Treatment for infiltrative ophthalmopathy is difficult and the outlook uncertain. Mrs Bush's doctors have opted for a 10-day course of radiation therapy. Others prescribe very high doses of steroid drugs. When the condition has stabilized, surgical decompression of the orbit may ease pressure on the eyes. Likewise the slack in the ocular muscles can be taken up surgically, so that the balance between them can be restored, and, one hopes, double vision eliminated.

Cutting Bernard

Devotees of Jeffrey Bernard's column in *The Spectator* who follow every twist and turn in his battle to remain mobile, if not healthy, will have been sorry to read that he is to undergo minor surgery. He has developed two egg-like cysts on the back of his head. Fortunately a medical friend was able to reassure him that they were no more than sebaceous cysts or, as they used to be known to Victorian doctors, wens. A sebaceous cyst forms as a result of the blocking of the small duct which carries the lubricating fat from the sebaceous gland to the surface of the skin.

Bernard is wise to have them removed, for quite apart from their unsightly appearance they can all too readily become infected, whereafter they are not only more difficult to excise but may give rise to a foul-smelling, chronically discharging abscess. Sometimes the skin over the infected cyst breaks down, and the resulting ulcer, known as Cocks' Peculiar Tumour, although benign, looks so angry that it is often mistaken for a cancer. Edward Cocks was a surgeon at Guy's Hospital in the 19th century.

A sebaceous cyst can form in the skin on any part of the body other than the soles of the feet and the palms of the hands, which have no sebaceous gland, but they are most common in the hairy areas. Infection is particularly apt to occur if the cyst is subject to pressure or friction.

The operation is very straightforward; indeed, the Health Secretary, Kenneth

Clarke, has determined that in the future it will be done by GPs. The doctor makes an incision over the cyst, after which it can be shelled out intact, although some dissection from its underlying bed may be necessary if the cyst has been previously infected.

No convalescence is needed; Bernard will be fit to go from Harley Street to the Coach and Horses, where he will be able to celebrate his safe recovery in the knowledge that he is now no longer in danger of developing a Cocks' Peculiar Tumour.

Working lungs

There are only a few MPs who can speak with first-hand experience in medical debates, so the illness of Sam Galbraith, a surgeon, just as the discussion on the NHS was getting under way is doubly unfortunate.

Galbraith has pulmonary fibrosis and has recently undergone a lung transplant. Pulmonary fibrosis, an increase in the connective tissue in the lung, is essentially a scarring process, so that the useful lung tissue through which oxygen is absorbed into the bloodstream is replaced by useless fibrous tissue. The fibrosis results in increasing breathlessness. As the disease progresses, the inability of the lungs to oxygenate the blood strains the heart.

Pulmonary fibrosis can be divided into generalized or localized. The latter follows infections, for instance TB, lung abscesses, or under-treated pneumonia. Generalized pulmonary fibrosis is known to all readers of A.J. Cronin.

for in the past it was the scourge of mining communities. Until recently the most common cause of pulmonary fibrosis was exposure to dust inhalation at work. Coal miners who developed pneumoconiosis were not the only occupational groups to be at risk; silicosis, the oldest of all fibrotic dust diseases, attacked a range of craftsmen from potters to carvers of granite tombstones. Exposure to asbestos also causes pulmonary fibrosis, as well as the more publicized malignancies.

Although the number of cases of generalized fibrosis due to occupational lung disease has declined, other causes remain. Some are due to the collagen diseases, which include rheumatoid arthritis, and many patients with fibrosis — even if they have no joint pains — show blood tests which are positive for rheumatoid; but even when the most extensive investigations have been completed the cause in many patients remains unexplained, and the fibrosis has to be classified as idiopathic, doctors' jargon for unknown. Some idiopathic generalized pulmonary fibrosis is due to exposure to organic dusts, for the inhalation of particles of animal and vegetable material can set up a hypersensitivity pneumonitis, an inflammation of the lungs. Again the risk is widespread. Pigeon breeders are at risk from Bird Fancier's Lung, and Farmer's Lung follows the inhalation of mouldy hay.

This pneumonitis due to hypersensitivity should not be confused with acute asthma caused by dust. Asthmatics usually wheeze so badly when exposed to it that they have to leave the dangerous environment before damage is done.

Cutting back the jungle

Trees have a tendency to outgrow their surroundings. In her Gardening column in *The Times* on Saturday, Francesca Greenoak explains the technique of coppicing and other methods of trimming trees to a manageable size.

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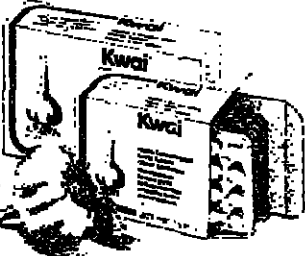
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Falling from grace

I've always been accident-prone. As a child I was quite good at all sports, but I was always getting bumps at football or hockey and broke my arm a couple of times. I had so much energy my parents were fed up with chasing me around, and sent me to judo classes.

I took to the sport straight away. I was picked for the European Championships when I was 17, won it the following year, and took my first world title the year after that. I've been world champion four times, but can only recall one bout when I didn't have one little niggling injury or another. I trained right through Christmas for the Commonwealth Games, and I reckon I should be ready.

In January 1986 I broke a bone in the arch of my foot when my heel hit the mat during training. The European Championships were at Crystal Palace that March, the first major judo event ever held in this country, and I had won my second world title, so I had to compete. I suppose I was naughty, really, because using it so soon delayed the healing process. But I won the championship. Luckily I seem to heal well, and my foot was better after nine months.

It was in the first round of defending my world title the following year, 1987, that I broke my leg. The girl I was competing against stepped on the back of my leg. Everyone in the stadium but me heard the crack.

BREATHING SPACE



KAREN BRIGGS

Luckily it happened at Essen, Germany, and I was operated on within two hours in one of the best hospitals in the world. I had about five fractures of my tibia and fibula plus ruptured ligaments. I had to have two metal plates and 15 screws inserted in my leg. I spent a total of two-and-a-half months in hospital.

British doctors told my parents I'd be lucky if I could ever walk properly again. I lay alone get back to judo. The plates stayed in for five months, though I'd been warned they might have to stay in for two years.

Still, I fought and won the Japanese Open at the end of the year. In Belgrade last October I regained the world title I'd lost because of the injury. The trouble was, I dislocated my shoulder in the final bout. Dr Ken Kingsbury, the team doctor, put it back for me straightaway. Then I had an exploratory operation to see if the capsule was damaged. It was and they repaired it there and then. The

muscles have gone weak because I had the arm in a sling for five weeks.

I have to be less than seven stone eight pounds to compete in the bantam class, and I've got my weight down to seven stone six pounds without any trouble, just by training, which is lucky because I love my food. I just eat what I want when I want it.

I don't know why I keep getting injured. They say it could be that because I train very hard I'm bound to be more prone to injuries.

I suppose the good thing about being injured is that it forces me to rest. When I do retire I intend to go in for the triathlon. But first I want to take part in the 1992 Olympics. I'd love to get a gold.

Interview by Christine Webb
Karen Briggs is the Sunday Times Woman of the Year and the Sports Writers' Association's Outstanding Sportswoman of the Year

TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

Reports from the shires speak of such a glut of pheasants this year that some shoots are resorting to digging large holes to bury the excess bag — a practice which even the British Field Sports Society views as wasteful and distasteful. I hear of one estate in north Cambridgeshire which allegedly buried 400 brace it could not even give away. Game dealers don't want them, as they already have more birds than they can handle; a hot dry summer has pushed up the native population, and Britain has lost its traditional pheasant export markets on the continent to cheap imports from Eastern Europe. (No, not Romania; Ceausescu preferred blasting at bears. The main source is Hungary.) The British sporting fraternity plans a meeting to dream up ways of persuading us to eat more home-reared pheasant. I shall go along with them if it can produce an unleaded variety.

On the question of birds, I hear from Australia that an animal rights organization there is offering \$A1,500 to any battery chicken farmer prepared to swap places with his hens for a week. To collect the money, says the Free Battery Hen Association, the farmer will have to live in a simulated battery cage constructed to scale inside his own chicken shed. The cockers, I gather, are hardly falling over themselves to volunteer.

Pace can take odd turns now that the Cold War has given way to room-temperature relations. Recently a party of 12 Aeroflot pilots and navigators, on an English language course in Norwich, were given a jolly day out by the US Air Force at Lakenheath airbase in Suffolk. The guests were shown the F-111 fighter-bombers which raided Libya in April 1987, and invited to inspect their controls. USAF hospitality did not, however, extend to local television crews, who were barred from recording this unique event. Miffed BBC producer Philip Haworth tells me: "It seems *glasnost* worked between the Russians and Americans, but not between ourselves and the Americans." What ideas were planted in the pilots' minds I do not know, but I shall be even less keen than before to travel with the Soviet national carrier.

BARRY FANTONI



'Someone had better tell the TUC'

A gratifying response to my invitation to provide an item for this column ten years hence. Clearly readers are connoisseurs of milk whey, as the lure of six bottles of the Glenlivet attracted a mountain of attempts to lay hands on them. Remarkable how many of you thought that by 1999 Mrs T would be life president, her PM would be Sebastian Coe, that a merger would have been effected between Canterbury and Rome, and that global warming would have made Britain a smaller place to live in. Numerous disqualifications were unavoidable, either because the writers had not attempted the style of these inches, or on grounds of taste. (I cannot, for example, entertain the idea of the Second Coming sponsored by the Daily Mail).

A bottle to Mark Malone of Bristol for: "L'Eau de Wesssex's recent decision to follow our other national water companies by adding garlic to their imbibition fluids (European definition) comes at a troubling time for the Government, occurring in the same week as the Polish demonstrations against being the only remaining UK regulars sack to fill with foreign soil while on holiday, and this will then be redeposited on low-lying land in Britain, thus creating a 'higher, happier country'. Meanwhile the forced resettlement of Labour Party members and Hong Kong refugees in the Fens continues unabated."

More winners on Tuesday.

The jewel in British Rail's crown is the service from Victoria station to Gatwick: a short journey, high fares, substantial occupancy — like you travel standing up, somebody stands on one of your feet while someone else is resting his suitcase on the other. When the railways are privatized this service is likely to be an Anglian Water among rail stock, probably bought up by SNCF.

Now you would think that the provider of such golden eggs would receive quite special care and attention. If so, you would think wrong. As the estimable Sir Robert Reid is about to make way for a man of the same name, here is a letter.

Dear Mr Reid,

When I left Victoria for Gatwick a fortnight ago there was a queue more than 40 people strong at each of the two ticket windows. Would it not be good

A foreign affairs expert, writing under the pseudonym Z, sees Soviet communism being swept away by the same forces at work in Eastern Europe — and urges the West to do nothing to prolong the agony

It is clear that 1989 will enter history as the beginning of communism's terminal crisis, and not just in Eastern Europe but from Berlin to Peking. It is also clear that *perestroika* and *glasnost* in the Soviet Union have only aggravated the systemic crisis they were intended to alleviate. They have done so because, like all forms of soft communism, they go against the logic of the system they are trying to save.

Mikhail Gorbachev has been trying to promote soft communism through structures and a population programmed for hard communism. But the latter is the only variety of Sovietism that is the genuine article, for the essence of all varieties of Sovietism is party supremacy. Thus, the instrument of Gorbachev's reform — the party — is the basic cause of Sovietism's troubles.

The way out of this contradiction? As one Soviet reformer put it after the June party congress: "The country now stands at a crossroads. From here we either go the Chinese way or the Polish-Hungarian way." Although he obviously wished for the latter course, the alternative he posed may well be Hobson's choice.

The Chinese way since the Tiananmen Square massacre last June means relative, though now declining, market prosperity under a regime of political and military repression. Repression is certainly a possibility in Russia, but market prosperity is out of the question for the indefinite future. Conversely, the Polish-Hungarian way means genuine democracy, but in the midst of economic ruin so severe as to threaten the survival of the new constitutional order.

In the Soviet Union, the economic ruin is even worse than in Poland and Hungary, but real democracy, as opposed to mere democratization, is not even on the agenda. Thus, the Soviet way could well combine the worst of the Chinese and the Central European scenarios: economic failure in conjunction with an inextinguishable leading role for the party.

Indeed, all paths of communist reform seem to end in one or another type of impasse. Leninist regimes, when they enter their final decline, seem able only either to implode, as in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania, or to dig in their heels militarily to stave off implosion, as under Deng Xiaoping in 1989. The whole impossible enterprise of Lenin and Stalin was sustainable only as long as the human and material resources on which it fed retained the vitality to endure the burden of the regime, and as long as some modicum of material success undergirded the

party's monopolistic position.

When these conditions ceased to hold, beginning with Deng's marketization of 1979 and Solidarity's revolt of 1980, the Communist parties' will to power began to flag and their people's habit of fear began to fade. For the Soviet party-state's survival, this development soon made necessary the expedients of *perestroika* and *glasnost*. But these are only pale substitutes for the market and democracy, half-way measures designed to square the circle of making the vivifying forces of a resurrected society compatible with the party's leading role.

But this circle cannot be squared. If marketization and privatization are the economic goals of reform then party planning becomes superfluous, indeed downright parasitical. If multiple parties, elections and the rule of law are the political goals of reform, then the dual administration of the party-state becomes superfluous, indeed positively noxious. There is no third way between Leninism and the market, between Bolshevism and constitutional government.

Marketization and democratization lead to the revival of civil society, and such a society requires the rule of law. But civil society under the rule of law is incompatible with the preservation of the lawless leading role of the party. At some point, therefore, the line will be reached where reform crosses over into liquidation of the party's leading role and all the structures it has created. Not only Eastern Europe but the Soviet Union are reaching that critical line.

The false problem of how to

restructure Leninism is now giving way to the real problem of how to dismantle the system, how to effect at last an exit from communism. *Perestroika* is not a solution but a transition to this exit. As Milovan Djilas, the Yugoslav dissident, foresaw early in *perestroika*, communism is not reforming itself — it is disintegrating.

So as we rub our eyes in astonishment at the most stunning communist implosion of all, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, we should not conclude that the structures it shielded for so long can be transformed by a few reform decrees. The revolutionary rapidity of events in 1989 should not breed the illusion that the exit from communism these events presage will itself be rapid.

And the most difficult case of all will be the Soviet Union, which, after all, has had 70, not 45 years of communism. Furthermore, the Soviet party is a national institution, not an alien imposition, buttressed by the success against the German invaders in the Second World War. And this national-imperial party has the military apparatus of a superpower.

All paths of communist reform seem to end in impasse. Perestroika and glasnost are halfway measures designed to make a resurrected society compatible with the party's leading role. But the circle cannot be squared.

How to bring socialism back from the dead

Ronald Butt warns the Tories against policies that alienate the public

The overwhelming lesson of the last decade, according to Mrs Thatcher's New Year message, is that "socialism has failed". As a self-contained statement, that seems true enough if socialism is defined as a system based on the common ownership of (at least basic) means of production and distribution; it has proved unworkable in both its undemocratic and democratic forms.

But what is to follow the death of socialism? Does it simply leave the doctrine of market forces triumphant? In the newly enfranchised states of Eastern Europe it remains to be seen how far this will be the break with their past. But in most West European states the drive to reinterpret socialism in terms which would have horrified the founding fathers continues with few inhibitions. In Britain, however, while Mr Kinnoch has made it clear what he does not want us to understand socialism to mean, we are largely in the dark about what is supposed to be its new meaning.

We know that Labour is supposed to have renounced the old

type of state ownership and management, the apparatus of planning, the full panoply of trade union power and unilateralism. But we begin the 1990s with little idea what Labour government would mean in practice. Voters have no clear concept as they had in 1945 or, indeed, in 1964 when Harold Wilson proposed planning for growth with the unions and industry co-operating on economic targets, pay and prices. Today we know only that Labour would spend more, that this could hardly be done without higher taxation and that the market freedom of the privatized utilities will be lost.

Yet none of this will necessarily provide the Conservatives or market-Thatcherism, as we have known it, with a ticket for a fourth term, for socialism as a theory did not come into existence through some arbitrary political Big Bang but because

Bernard Levin's column will appear tomorrow.

problems existed which called forth the theory and created a political constituency for it. It was a response to these ethically unacceptable by-products of the market — poverty, the inability or failure of those who prospered individually to meet the needs of those in adversity, and a lack of fairness in terms of a decent living for the unskilled.

Socialism, with its stultifying and imposed egalitarianism, was not the right answer. But the questions it purported to answer were valid, and they still are. Socialism may be dead philosophically, leaving Labour without a coherent replacement. But this would not suffice for another period of Conservative power if the Government forgot why socialism came into existence and why Labour gained power in 1945 and 1964. Mr Kinnoch may not be able to define a new socialism but the Tories could provide Labour with what passes as such a definition simply by what they themselves fail to offer.

The political balance sheet has seldom been harder to interpret. On Mrs Thatcher's side are the facts that the nation wants to keep the sense of freedom and personal prosperity gained in the last decade, does not want to be over-burdened by taxation, supports trade union reform and generally favours privatization. It wants inflation to be conquered.

Despite Labour's present healthy lead in the opinion polls, it will find it a much harder task than it was to win back many marginal seats because of the collapse of the centre. Mrs Thatcher also has the potential advantage that in a struggle between the sovereignty of Brussels and that of the elected Parliament at Westminster, most Britons will be on her side.

But the simple substitution of "the market" for socialism is not enough. Of course, Tories never thought it was. If they had, they would not remain as committed as they are to massive social spending. Nevertheless they con-

vey the impression that they regard spending on the public services as somehow less productive than it would be if it were in the private sector.

Sir Robert Reid's warning on the failure to invest in the railways makes the point. No other West European nation expects passengers to travel in such discomfort on so unreliable a service. No other nation so under-invests in railways. The Germans, whose strong currency testifies to their market conviction, do not hesitate to accept that the publicly-owned railways exist to serve the public and that services cannot be determined purely by profit. Ministers could mull over the tenet of the German social market economy: "As little state as possible, as much state as is necessary."

Kenneth Clarke's refusal to bring forward an imaginative solution to the ambulance's stoppage is similarly symptomatic. Though it is essential not to make a precedent for coming wage claims, the risk to

expectation would be that such a parallel sector, perhaps with its own convertible currency, would eventually spread across the Soviet Union.

Such a policy is, indeed, a modest approximation of the approach that Poland's new government is inaugurating. But what Gorbachev is prepared to accept for his outer empire in Eastern Europe (where he effectively lost control in 1988) would be much more difficult for him to accept for the inner empire, since foreign investment could imperil Soviet national sovereignty.

So Western investment in joint or other enterprises in the Soviet Union would have to be handled without triumphalism about capitalism's superiority, and with due sensitivity to Soviet national pride. The West's aim should be to encourage the change of Soviet realities while leaving the old labels intact — in a kind of socialist Emperor-of-Japan arrangement.

Yet, however the Soviet Union edges toward its particular exit from communism, this uncharted process can only be long and painful. Further crises will most likely be necessary to produce further, and more real, reform. And a last-ditch attempt to stave off ruin by curtailing destabilizing reform altogether could lead to that military reaction so feared by Moscow liberals.

And — who knows — in this scenario Gorbachev might be agile enough to become his own successor, or if *perestroika* ends in another 18th of Brumaire, to be his own Bonaparte. Gorbachev would be hard to replace because his international reputation is now the Soviet Union's chief capital asset; yet he could not afford to be a very tough Bonaparte, since he has become the prisoner of his foreign policy successes.

Obviously, none of these prospects is a cheering one, and none would be easy for the West to live alongside. But it is better to look realistically at the genuine options in the East as they have been moulded by 70 years of a failed Utopia than to engage in fantasies about Gorbachev as a demagogue of instant democracy or about the end of conflict in history. Nor should we forget that communism, however disastrous, has always been successful at one thing: resourcefulness and tenacity in holding on to its monopoly of power.

The Soviet world's transition to normality will be a long time coming. The party, though now dyed with the hues of *glasnost* and democratization, will cling to the bitter end, like some poisoned tonic, to the bodies of nations it has enfolded in its embrace for so many decades.

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This article is adapted from the conclusion of a longer historical analysis to be published in the winter issue of *Daedalus*, journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. *Daedalus* is withholding the author's name from all parties at the author's request.

Flying the Gatwick not-so-special



CLEMENT
FREUD

sense to have a sign showing where there are other windows, an express facility for people paying cash, or a ticket machine such as you have on some platforms? Airline passengers already have to check in two hours before a flight, mostly — one suspects — so that the British Airports Authority can make wonderful profits selling them "duty-free" boxes of chocolates. Need one also get to the station half an hour before the train's departure to buy a ticket?

On the train the public address system cleared its throat and announced that anyone found sitting in a first-class carriage without a first-class ticket would

be made to pay a supplement. You and I know this meant there was no ticket inspector on this service and BR was putting on the frighteners. People not versed in such chicanery would think more of BR if it explained that first-class travel is more comfortable, less crowded and "if you do not have the relevant ticket you are most welcome to sit there for an extra payment".

Gatwick has become the white cliffs of Dover — the first sight many foreigners get of Britain. If the foreigner looks carefully around the airport he will see some of our policies. "Fast, clean trains leave for London every 15 minutes until 2300 and hourly

throughout the night." Might not these notices also give the standard fare, so that a party of four could work out if it is cheaper to take a taxi? Why not publish the number of minutes after each

hour that the trains leave, enabling passengers to time their approach to the platform, hurry if haste is required, dawdle and buy an up-to-date newspaper if they have minutes to spare?

Platforms 1 and 2 appear to be for London trains. Why not erect a sign showing in which direction the train will move, for people carrying heavy luggage prefer to take it to the business end rather than battle through the crowds at Victoria — where you really might provide trolleys for incoming travellers.

On the return journey last Thursday evening the illuminated sign proclaimed "Next Train departs 22.66" — and not

a BR soul in sight to make sense of that. After 18 minutes' wait an announcement: "The first-class compartments are at the front of the train; the front is at the opposite end to the engine, while the back, which is nearest the engine, is for standard ticket-holders."

When I had a train set, I found it easier for engines to pull carriages than push them; in action I understand it enables drivers to see where they are going and gives them extra space to stop if there is an impediment. Should modern technology decree that it is better to push, why not make a virtue of this? "British Rail. Where the engines are at the back?"

On this occasion a man in a dark suit and yellow tie with a motif of orange cranes came into our carriage and said "Good evening, may I see your tickets?" He may have been a bored passenger; he certainly wore no badge of office, not even a hat — an article of clothing which I think is so reassuring, indeed essential, on railway officials — though he did carry a clipper like the one I got for my seventh birthday: a good machine for those into ticket clipping.

He was the warmest thing that happened to us on the journey; if he was one of yours, well done. If the man pushing the trolley with lukewarm drinks and expensive sandwiches belongs to you, I take back the praise. His goods reminded me of the Czech saying, "If you put crap on a shelf, it thinks it's a cake."

Sincerely, Clement Freud

Such a policy is, indeed, a modest approximation of the approach that Poland's government is taking. It is what Gorbachev is prepared to accept for his outer empire. Eastern Europe (where he would like to see a more active role for the Soviet Union) would be much more difficult to accept for the inner empire, since foreign investment would be a major source of revenue.

So Western investment, joint or other enterprises, might be handled without triumphalism and without due recognition of the Soviet national pride. The West's aim should be to encourage the change of labels, rather than the change of the socialist Emperor-in-a-laid arrangement.

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

DEVOLVE AND RULE?

Devolved government for Northern Ireland is back on the agenda. It is easier, however, to settle what the speech made on Tuesday by the Northern Ireland Secretary does not mean than to say what it might become.

There is no evidence in what Mr Brooke said that the Government is preparing to "abandon" the Anglo-Irish Agreement. It would be a disgraceful betrayal if it were, but the speech bears no such construction. It is hard to believe that its general and innocuous phrasing could even be such a hint delivered in code.

If some administrative powers were devolved to a local administration, meeting the long-held British criteria for "power-sharing", those matters would not be reviewed by British and Irish ministers meeting under the auspices of the Agreement. Nor, presumably, would they be handled by the joint secretariat which has become the symbol of the Agreement - valued as such by the Roman Catholic minority, loathed as such by many Unionists.

That change would not cancel the Anglo-Irish Agreement, although it would change it. Many matters would still remain for London and Dublin to co-ordinate. It is just possible to imagine a situation in which so many powers were devolved that the scope and significance of the Agreement were greatly diminished. But even then, defence matters would still rest with the United Kingdom Government and that, in Northern Ireland, entails the involvement of the national Government in local security. But this is all very far from the realms of practical possibility in the 1990s.

The Agreement itself starts clause 5(c) with these careful words: "If it should prove impossible to achieve and sustain devolution on a basis which secures widespread acceptance in Northern Ireland...". That wary formulation points to the second exclusion from Mr Brooke's hopeful recital: it contained no detail on what had changed in the positions of the major players.

It may be that Mr Brooke knows more than he is telling - any chairman of such negotiations knows that to expose prematurely

a position which has quietly shifted is often enough to cancel the shift. It seems more likely, however, that his speech was intended as mood music: designed to provide a gently harmonious background for politicians in a mood to talk and a token that the Government has not lost interest in devolution. It also openly notes that, over time, the hostility of at least some Unionist politicians to the Agreement has softened.

There are still a number of problems to be overcome and Mr Brooke's speech gives few clues as to whether they can be. That softening of the Unionist insistence on the suspension of the Agreement as a pre-condition of any devolution negotiation has been accompanied by a deepening split among Unionists over whether they wish to integrate further into the United Kingdom or to continue the quest for devolution. A good measure of internal agreement among Unionists is necessary before any participation in devolved administration could be contemplated or sustained. Does it exist?

The SDLP has already made depressing noises about the general ideas in the speech. Concentration on devolution was premature, said a spokesman for Mr John Hume. The SDLP suggests that talks should be held on nothing but the essentials of the problem - which, in translation, can only mean the consideration of further moves towards joint authority, confederation or unification.

These reactions sit oddly with the clear commitment of the Agreement to seek a fair form of devolved government for the province. Is the SDLP rejecting that aspect of the Agreement? It would be useful to know the answer before the Northern Ireland Office proceeds any further on the course set by Mr Brooke. If anything does emerge from the embryo of his speech, it will certainly focus exclusively on devolution. If the SDLP is not interested, the secretary of state would be better advised using his time on other more worthwhile subjects.

MR JORDAN'S OWN GOAL

The managing director and chief executive officer of Airbus Industrie, M Jean Pierson, is a man with a robust management style and a reputation for forthrightness. The strike which has affected output at the Preston and Chester plants of British Aerospace has now lasted for nine weeks and is threatening to bring assembly work at Toulouse to a halt. On Tuesday, M Pierson decided that the time had come to speak his mind. "Part of the art of good management is in being able to handle labour relations", he said. If he had guessed that the strike would last so long, he would have shut down the assembly line sooner to provoke a crisis. "We were too intelligent", he said.

M Pierson's exasperation is understandable. Nineteen eighty-nine was a record year for the European consortium. It achieved a 22.5 per cent share of the market, and had been hoping to push that figure closer to 30 per cent in 1990. It took firm orders for 421 aircraft, valued at \$34 billion. It is close to clinching a deal with the Soviet airline Aeroflot for up to 10 A310-300s. Just as Boeing, its main competitor, is beginning to pick up after a damaging industrial dispute in Seattle, Airbus has had to watch its production rate dwindle to one a month - before the strike began, it had got it up to 11. With British Aerospace no longer able to deliver the wings, the rest of the intricate Airbus operation will now grind to an expensive halt.

The strike is in pursuit of a claim for shorter hours. The unions began by demanding a reduction to 35 hours - two hours less than in West Germany. British Aerospace says that it is ready to come down to 37 hours, but only in return for cost-saving productivity improvements. The company has also declined to negotiate further unless the men first return to work.

Mr Bill Jordan, the president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, professes to be nonplussed by what he calls BAE's obstinacy. "I can only assume", he said loftily this week, "that they think they are doing the Government a favour in some way by resisting shorter working hours".

AN EVIL TRADE

The volume of illegal drugs seized by customs officers, measured in street value, went up by 40 per cent in Britain last year. The number of those caught smuggling them rose still more sharply, setting new records which must be gratifying for the Government.

Congratulations for those involved, however, must be tempered by an awareness of the realities behind the statistics. The 50 per cent increase in confiscated cocaine and the 331 kilograms of heroin (enough for 11 million injections) are due only in part to the vigilance of the customs men. They also reflect the growth of the drug traffic.

Yesterday's provisional figures contained one especially worrying statistic. About four out of every 10 drugs consignments detected were being brought into Britain from other parts of the European Community, particularly from Holland and Spain. In many cases "day trippers" from the Continent were used to smuggle hard drugs into this country.

This has ominous implications for the future. What will happen after 1992, when border checks throughout the Community are eased? The prospect of a single market for drug traffickers is one which must give the authorities pause for thought.

Last year must go down as a bad one for the drugs barons. The priority accorded by President Bush to fighting them, the declaration of open war on the cartels by President Barco of Colombia and the arrest by the Americans of General Noriega, have taken place against a backdrop of growing international co-operation. About 160 international drug rings were smashed as a result and profits totalling £5 million were seized.

Despite all this, however, the drugs industry

still flourishes. Countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (identified as the main sources of heroin) may co-operate. Aid programmes may be mounted to help them meet the costs of law enforcement and relieve any economic dependence on drugs money. But the syndicates are too well organized and the profits which they earn are far too tempting for them to be driven out of business altogether.

This is not an argument for legalizing drugs. However much that might erode profits, it would be an entirely self-defeating exercise. It is rather an argument for tackling the demand. To some extent the Third World is correct in identifying the drugs problem in the West as one for Western society to tackle.

President Bush recognized last year that no solution to the drugs menace would be found unless thousands of young Americans could be persuaded that drugs bankrupt, cripple and eventually kill their victims. That stark, simple message must somehow be conveyed to them.

Most governments will argue that they have been trying to do that for the last two decades. To which it must be said that they have not tried hard enough. A comprehensive international campaign, sharply focused on teenagers and young adults, must now be mounted as a leading priority in the West.

A chance to plan this will arise in April when Britain, in conjunction with the United Nations, will play host to a ministerial summit to discuss this very problem. Last year saw an encouraging assault on the suppliers. We should concentrate this year on the consumers, because it is upon them, in the end, that the drugs industry depends.

Lack of vision on railways

From Dr Chris Gossop
Sir, Sir Robert Reid's fierce criticism (report, January 9) of Government policy towards our railways highlights the sad fact that Britain is failing to plan properly for the transport infrastructure we shall undoubtedly need in the 1990s and beyond.

What is lacking is any real vision by the Government of the contribution that the railways can make to the future development and prosperity of our country. As Sir Robert rightly points out, things are very different on the Continent, with the French, in particular, forging ahead with massive investment in their TGV high-speed train network and exploiting this to the full as a tool to encourage economic development.

Properly exploited, the Channel tunnel could provide an immense fillip to our own railway system. Unfortunately the determination that three years ago led to a decision to build the tunnel did not extend to the infrastructure that will be needed to serve it. The Government assumed that this was something that could be handled purely by British Rail, together with the private sector. But at the same time there was to be absolutely no public subsidy provided and a clause to this effect was actually built into the Channel Tunnel Act.

This shortsighted attitude has led to the recent decision to scrap plans for a tunnel under London to connect the proposed international terminal at King's Cross with the high-speed rail link to the Channel tunnel. The result is a second-best solution which could lead to serious delays in future for trains from anywhere on the north side of the Thames.

British Rail's latest plan (report, December 15) must go beyond the single passenger train to Paris and Brussels daily down each of the east and west coast main lines, while its proposals for freight are similarly unambitious.

If the United Kingdom is to benefit fully from the Channel tunnel we need the best possible rail links to all parts of the country. The danger is that without such links business will increasingly perceive the parts to Britain "beyond London" as places in which they should not invest. And as our trade with the Continent increases we face the likelihood of a further concentration of economic activity in the already overheated south-east of England and a further worsening of the quality of life for those of us who live and work there.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS GOSSOP
(Deputy Director),
Town and Country Planning Association,
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.
January 9.

Battles of Alamein

From Mr Correll Barnett
Sir, Your report (January 5) on Manfred Rommel receiving the CBE mentions that his father, Field Marshal Rommel, was defeated in the second Battle of Alamein in October-November, 1942, but omits to mention that the turning point of the Desert War was the first Battle of Alamein, in July, 1942, when the 8th Army, led by General Sir Claude Auchinleck, and his Chief of Staff, Major-General Eric Dorman-Smith, stopped Rommel's offensive in full career and threw him on to the defensive.

In conducting the battle Auchinleck and Dorman-Smith brilliantly exploited Ultra decrypts of German Enigma top-secret cyphered signals which revealed the location of German and Italian formations as well as Rommel's own plans and the state of his army.

Yours faithfully,
CORRELL BARNETT,
Churchill College,
Cambridge.
January 7.

Seasonal pastime

From Mr James Kellaway
Sir, Mr Stent (January 8) can hardly cite New Year's Day croquet as an indication of global warming. Croquet has been played at Compton Croquet Club, here in Eastbourne, on fine winter days for many years, with enthusiasts casting a hopeful eye out of the window, in particular on Boxing Day.

A notable member was Lord Tollerme who, 40 years ago, played regularly throughout the winter months, by himself when he could not find an opponent. He was exceptionally devoted to the game, about which he wrote at length, and when the weather was unfavourable he would practise short roquets at home, aiming at a sixpence on the carpet.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES KELLAWAY (Chairman,
Compton Croquet Club),
79 Saffrons Court,
Compton Place Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

From Mr W. R. Bawden
Sir, At the Cheltenham Croquet Club we have 10 lawns in play in summer, four in winter. Frost and snow apart, there is hardly a winter day when the game is not played.

Winter croquet here is so popu-

Museum charges case contested

From the Director of the British Museum and others

Sir, The report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, *Should museums charge? Some case studies* (published today) recommends that national museums and galleries should consider introducing compulsory admission charges. Our trustees have considered this question many times over the years. However, the question of free access to public collections is far too serious to be decided on less than comprehensive evidence.

As directors of the three most-visited, non-charging museums in Britain we must express our surprise and disappointment that the committee should have chosen to be so selective in the evidence which it sought. We believe that the degree of imbalance is such as to raise serious questions about the validity of the conclusions reached.

Admission to most of the national art collections in the United Kingdom is free. The overwhelming majority of the museum profession supports free entry. Yet invited to appear before the committee were two directors who support compulsory charging for admission, one who supports voluntary charging, and only one director who runs a non-charging institution.

Furthermore, it was suggested to the committee that they should visit Washington or Berlin (where the national collections are free) but they declined to look at that side of the picture. The only foreign country visited was France, which has a very different museum culture from our own and a quite different history of State funding for the arts.

The result is, we believe, a flawed and unhappy document which adds only heat and not light to the debate. We trust that neither Parliament nor the public will take the conclusions of this report too seriously. Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. WILSON
(The British Museum),
NEIL MACGREGOR
(National Gallery),
NICHOLAS SEROTA
(Tate Gallery),
The British Museum,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
January 10.

From Professor Sir John Hale, FBA
Sir, The report of the education, science and arts committee notes (p. vi) that it is Government policy that charging should be at the discretion of the trustees. It is a policy that has been reiterated, in both Houses, during the past years, and perhaps owes something to Government's professed

Changing times

From Mr Peter Sotheran
Sir, The Government is to allow a free vote on whether or not to align the British working day with that on mainland Europe.

Cleveland is 240 miles north of London, yet 200 miles south of Edinburgh. Four million people live in this and the four neighbouring northern counties. During the experiment of 20 years ago, for 10 or 12 weeks we travelled to work and school in the dark. Our children had to wear fluorescent sashes and armbands. In my workplace morale and efficiency fell and tempers shortened. Some of us saw natural daylight only at weekends. For what purpose? Business in the town was not better.

This association represents 96 businesses in Cleveland. We oppose the proposed change. Those of us with international business are quite capable of adjusting our working hours to suit our overseas colleagues. Why should the public as a whole suffer?

Yours faithfully,
PETER SOTHERAN (Chairman,
Redcar Business Association),
A. A. Sotheran Ltd.,
14-16 Queen Street,
Redcar, Cleveland.

From Professor Emeritus O. A. W. Dilke
Sir, Your leading article of Janu-

lar that it is not uncommon for each of the four lawns to be double-banked (two games simultaneously in progress on the same lawn), and even to see a lawn treble-banked, so great is the demand.

In general, the great majority of our winter all-week players fall into the 60-84 age group. Tough golden oldies indeed.

Yours,
W. R. BAWDEN,
9 Trowswood Avenue,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mr Malcolm McGregor
Sir, I can assure Mr Stent that "global warming" is not essential to enable croquet playing on New Year's Day. I was unable to attend this year's annual International New Year's Curry and Croquet Festival, held in Denmark last week. The tradition originated in Tonga some years ago. For some reason Gammel Dansk and pumpkin curry must be served.

Roqueting was made more interesting by a couple of inches of snow on the lawn. A paraffin heater was required on the pitch to keep the balls warm. Teams taking part represented Denmark, Sweden, Tonga, Holland, and the United Kingdom. There is no report of who won the, now lost, Japanese squeaky doll trophy.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MCGREGOR,
14 Prince of Wales Terrace,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.
January 8.

homage to certain values inherent in Britain's past, in this case, free entry to a source of cultural enrichment. But the committee pays homage, albeit hesitantly, to a modish managerial value by recommending (p. xiii) that "all national museums and galleries should consider introducing compulsory admission charges".

Now attendance figures, properly-conducted visitor surveys, and calculations of the costs of charging mechanisms all seriously question the practical benefit of what the committee itself accepts (p. xiv) would be "marginal (and somewhat unpredictable) income".

Moreover, not only in numerous *fora* in this country, but in a recent conference called by the National Bureau of Economic Research in the USA, urgent concern has been expressed about the failure of nerve which tempts institutions, in order to attract paying visitors, to offer peripheral entertainments at the expense of properly caring for and building interest in the permanent collections they were designed to house.

The true value of these, the nature of what they offer the mind and spirit, only emerges with familiarity, with the repeated visits fostered by free entry. To propose concessions (p. xiv) is arrogantly to suppose that someone knows the nature of the interest, and the contents of the pockets, of old and young, healthy and infirm, native and foreign. There should be no barrier at the gate.

The way to give the nationals the break they responsibly need is through adequate core funding, not charging. Yours faithfully,
JOHN HALE,
26 Montpelier Row,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
January 10.

From the Reverend Denis Shaw
Sir, In a small lodge belonging to Clewer Parish Church, Windsor, we have a Museum of Local History, which, as *The Times* reported, was visited by the Duchess of York last June, and was highly praised by her.

It was founded in 1981 and for a few years we had a modest entry fee. Two years ago we stopped charging for admission and, instead, placed a box by the entrance for contributions to maintenance.

Our income rocketed. Instead of producing a stipulated fee on entering, visitors now make a voluntary donation. It is always considerably higher than our former charge. Yours etc
DENIS SHAW,
Clewer Rectory, 14 Parsonage Lane,
Windsor, Berkshire.
January 3.

ary 6 contrasts Scotland, where putting clocks forward one hour in the winter is opposed, with the Scandinavian countries, which "seem to have no particular difficulty in adjusting".

What is not mentioned is that all of Scandinavia is well to the east of Scotland, and that, for example, in Glasgow the sun rises more than one hour later than in Copenhagen, since it is 16° 48' west of Copenhagen and a little further north.

Yours faithfully,
O. A. W. DILKE,
Moordale, Hubby,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

From Mr J. D. Howell
Sir, Your leading article suggests that the lot of farmers has been eased by the practice of overwintering cows in sheds at night to save rounding them up on cold, dark mornings. To my own knowledge, as an ex-dairyman, this has always been the practice of dairy farmers.

Increasing the duration of cold, dark mornings by altering GMT would not militate against the milking tedium; on the contrary, it would add to it and increase the expense of the operation.

Yours sincerely,
J. D. HOWELL,
16 Ennerdale Drive,
Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire.

From Mr Peter Laws
Sir, Your leader states that dawn arrives significantly later in large tracts of the Celtic fringe than it does "in the South".

There is approximately 45 minutes' difference between sunrise at Lowestoft and in west Cornwall, and even more all along the western parts of Ireland, including the far west of Ulster. The abolition of Greenwich Mean Time would be looked upon with trepidation here.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LAWS,
21 Lidden Road,
Penzance, Cornwall.

The new Romania

From Mrs Jessica Douglas-Home
Sir, I see from your news report (January 4) that the so-called Chief Rabbi of Romania, Moses Rosen, is still in Bucharest. I wonder how long the Romanian people will let him stay.

You omitted to mention that he was sent as chief emissary to praise the Ceausescu regime on many delicate missions round the world. Furthermore, Rosen has no true rabbinical background and, according to the true Chief Rabbi of Romania, Dr Alexandre Safran, was not chosen by the Jewish community. Safran is still alive, in spite of being hounded out of Romania with death threats by the communists in 1947. Rosen was privy to this campaign.

Yours sincerely,
JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME,
63 Hillgate Place, W8.
January 9.

Civil Servants' code of ethics

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Your leader of January 6 on the new code of conduct for Civil Servants accused the FDA of "what looks like a piece of opportunism" and stated baldly that the "Government is right because it has been consistent".

Perhaps it is worth remembering that the FDA has been entirely consistent in our approach to a code of ethics for Civil Servants. Our proposed code, published by this association in 1986, is clear in its commitment to pursue diligently the implementation of Government policies and to preserve the confidences of ministers, by a politically neutral Civil Service which is expected to serve a succession of administrations.

To accuse anyone who recognises the crucial difference between "all" and "most" as merely "hair-splitting" falls short of *The Times*'s usually high standard of verbal accuracy. An absolute duty is, after all, different from a qualified one, however exceptional the qualification may be.

Some Civil Servants, such as tax inspectors, have statutory duties which require them to act independently. Others have legal and professional duties - for example, Government lawyers have a duty to the courts.

The absolute nature of the required confidentiality and loyalty is well understood to be qualified already. We have consistently opposed departures from this position, and must do so again in respect of the proposed new code paragraphs.

You have dismissed loftily what you term "that mythical entity, the Crown". Many Civil Servants, indeed many members of the public, would take a different view. Where the political neutrality of a Crown servant is compromised the individual should have the right to appeal to the Crown. In practical terms this would mean access to an ombudsman or tribunal of privy councillors. Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,
General Secretary,
Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Caxton Street, SW1.
January 9.

Tit for tat

From Lord O'Hagan, MEP for Devon (European Democrat (Conservative))
Sir, Now that the Labour Party has abandoned the closed shop, is it not time for the Conservative Party to think about reforming the House of Lords? Yours faithfully,
O'HAGAN,
12 Lyndhurst Road,
Exeter, Devon.
January 5.

Faithful friends

From Mr Christopher Fry
Sir, I took over my Corona portable 1917 model from the father of Richard Rodney Bennett when he changed his machine for a new one in 1930. I have been clattering away on it for 60 years and, as you (if not your readers) see, there is no good reason to replace it. Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FRY,
The Toff, East Dean,
Chichester, Sussex.
January 5.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Thorp
Sir, A very faithful and efficient friend is about to see daylight, as it does for one day every year in January, to help make the marmalade. It is a Spong patent slicer, bought by my mother around 1920-25.

Since the thickness of the cut can be instantly varied by the turn of a thumb screw and it never wears out, it is far better suited to its job than any modern electric mincer/slicer/what-have-you.

It cost 9s. 8d. (nearly 50p). The price was, of course, printed on the box. Yours faithfully,
J. P. THORP,
Elm Cottage, Knightsbridge Road,
Camberley, Surrey.
January 4.

Name calling

From the Reverend S. J. Davies
Sir, Your perennially interesting league-table of baptismal names (January 1) prompts me to enquire whether the name Florence was ever given in the United Kingdom prior to Florence Nightingale's return from the Crimea, and her consequent fame.

It would be interesting to hear if among your readers there is any family record of this name being used before the Crimean War. Perhaps I may add that my first grandchild has very recently been named Florence.

Yours sincerely,
S. J. DAVIES,
The Devon & Exeter Institution,
Cathedral Close, Exeter, Devon.
January 5.

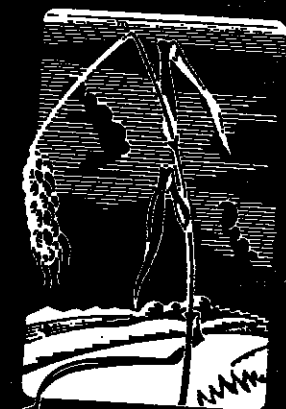
From Miss Meriel Thorne
Sir, Marigold Cowsill (January 5) may be possessed of one of the most unpopular Christian names, but surely it is also one of the most optimistic? Yours faithfully,
MERIEL THORNE,
45a Haldane Road, SW6.
January 5.

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BOOKS

English is easier

Peter Ackroyd on the latest reports on how our language is alive and lively

A few years ago it was fashionable to declare the Death of Language. As some adjunct to the MacLaurian fantasy that the printed word was rapidly becoming obsolete, certain academics and cultural journalists flitted with the entertaining notion that discursive or complex language was being replaced by pervasive visual imagery or, more romantically, by Silence. It was nonsense then, and it is nonsense now — nowhere more clearly revealed than in this volume, the contributors to which display a far more sophisticated awareness of language than the cultural mentors of the recent and not so recent past.

THE STATE OF THE LANGUAGE
Edited by Christopher Ricks and Leonard Michaels
Faber, £17.50

Here are essays on the language of the law, the language of advertising, the language of Wall Street, the language of computers, the language of rock music, the language of graffiti, the language of bad language. The contributors address language, attack or celebrate its various forms, plead with it, denounce it, and analyse it. There is an interesting discussion, for example, on the nature of censorship and "free speech", although of course speech is never free for those who know how to use it properly. In the context of the book itself it is important to note that there are variations of syntactical constraint (let alone overtly social or political restraints) which determine the nature of what is said or what is written. And, if this makes language resemble some deity to be propitiated, or some life force of which the manifestations are uncertain, then no clearer evidence is needed than the three essays in this volume which examine the way in which words can tyrannize

the victims of Aids — the very term "victim" in this sentence being a case in point. In fact these essays cogently demonstrate how the adoption of a certain vocabulary, the use of certain key terms, even the choice of transitive or intransitive verbs, can actively shape the public awareness of the condition — can indeed shape the experience of the sufferer and the understanding of his own body. Language ceases to be that abstract context in which somehow we all float harmlessly, but instead takes its place at the frontier of sensibility and response; it becomes the pressure which pushes us forwards through the world.

That is why a volume of this kind is of vital importance in registering the movements and changes in the language itself. But if there is one useful generalization to be elicited from these essays, it is perhaps the one most to be expected. A study by Keith Thomas of the way people salute each other at the beginning and end of correspondence, for example, comes to much the same conclusion as an analysis of swearing by Roy Harris — that there has been a steady rise in the use of the demotic in formal contexts as well as an increase in general informality of address. This does not imply imprecision or any necessary deterioration of standards, but rather a general movement towards what Thomas describes as the trust in "unpretentiousness, ease of access, consideration, amiability". This may in turn be connected with another conclusion here, that the interest in the etymological roots of meaning is declining.

But these changing ideas of the nature and status of grammar, the rise of what one contributor calls

"the ideology of pluralism", and the evident fact that "Language that would once have been debarred for its grammatical sloppiness or incoherence is permitted in any newspaper or broadcast news bulletin", all relate to the one central phenomenon: there is no longer one common culture, one accepted set of values, one "core" of stable meanings, from which English can be said to derive.

Nevertheless it really does no good to complain about changes in the vocabulary and structure of our language, and those who over-emphasize the niceties of grammatical structure run the risk of ignoring the capacious and forceful life of proper English. Language is dynamic and comprehensive; as soon as it becomes defensive or exclusive it loses half or its real strength. If language is indeed the very proof and test of identity, as so many of the essayists here suggest, then surely it is wrong to encase it in a historical plaster cast? It must

always, naturally grow and change. It is undoubtedly true, for example, that there is something close to the "internationalization" of English and that "to write it no longer seems an Anglo-Saxon prerogative". It is not now seen as the domain of a superior race or culture, and in any case, as Randolph Quirk observes, "we are witnessing a significant relative decline (perhaps even an absolute

decline) in the currency of English worldwide". Chinese, Hindi, and Spanish are spoken by more.

But there is a further point to be made here about Australian writing (and by extension that of other English-speaking cultures), even if the contributor on Australian English does not make it for himself — the evident fact that many Australian novelists now use English with an almost magical fluency suggests how closely they resemble Irish poets and prose-writers of the earlier decades of the century. They have learned how to subvert a colonial language from within, and thus to render it capable of more subtle and more surprising effects than those who are still, as it were, imprisoned within their inheritance. It might be interesting to note in this context that, of the 62 contributors to this volume, 30 are academics and 33 are American or Canadian. To use a dead and now apparently forgotten tongue, *quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*



GLYN BOYD HART

Media man's memoir

Michael Wright
DOWNSTART



By Brian Inglis
Chatto & Windus, £15.95

details and anecdotes add splashes of colour, but in general they are as hard to find as the raisins in a bowl of cheap muesli, and some may stick in the teeth. Other people's fluffed golf shots or the tries of veteran rugby internationals are not likely to be brought to life by any but the most quicksilver pros.

The critic of any autobiography must be sure that he is reviewing the book and not the life; in this case, as frequently, they are almost inseparable. Inglis is not well served by his easy manner and obvious affability; his nonchalant reliance on luck and the workings of Fate means that life has tended to live him, rather than vice versa. As a result, his book too often resembles a description of the movements of a single pawn in an

average game of chess. Only in the nick of time is the pawn finally queened. As Inglis himself observes, "enlightenment was slow in my case", and in the final chapter he admits that "the 1980s for me are too bound up with Margaret [van Hattem] to write about them".

Here, suddenly, the narrative comes alive. The single diaphanous organ-stop of the preceding chapters gives way to a delicate vox humana that reveals more through its inability to speak than all the piping of the earlier work. Inglis, one is made to feel, is never really bound up with life until this final, special relationship. He has drifted along sans ambition from the very earliest days, where his prep-school headmaster had observed that "Brian has been going along his rather comfortable way, with no signs of overwork, and his usual very pleasant demeanour". And elsewhere, "A little inclined to be charmingly ineffective, an inclination which he must strenuously resist".

Paradoxically, it is only in his reticence to write about Margaret that a sense of emotional force and depth is finally revealed; a tiny rock pool after miles of sand. A sense of humanity after all the gung-ho Guinness swilling and golf tournaments of the previous chapters at last justifies this somewhat humdrum book. Deconstructive critics will enjoy the fact that the emotional centre of the work actually lies "outside" it, for the final chapter including Margaret is called "Postscript", and Inglis attributes it to his having found out a particular piece of information after I had completed Downstart.

Among an unforgivably large number of proofing errors, there is one, presumably unintentional, post-modern joke that squares nicely with the author's interest in the paranormal. The frontispiece has it that the book was published by Chatto & Windus in the year 1900. That, spookily, is 16 years before Inglis's birth. He really is some historian.

NEW HARD-BACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

Argentina Between the Great Powers, 1949-46, edited by Guido di Tella and D. Cameron Watt (Macmillan, £35) Revisionist rather than having a pro-Axis attitude, Argentina actually followed British line.

The Awakening of the Soviet Union, by Geoffrey Hosking (Heinemann, £13.95) Sovietologist on USSR turmoil: book grown out of Reith Lectures.

Cadillac Desert, The American West and Its Disappearing Water, by Marc Reisner (Sackler & Warburg, £14.95) EcoHistory and Horror Story.

Christopher Isherwood, Where Joy Resides, An Isherwood Reader, edited by Don Bachardy & James P. White (Methuen, £18.99).

The End of Nature, by Bill McKibben (Viking, £12.99) More EcoDoom.

Feudal Society, by Marc Bloch, translated by L. A. Mayhew, new foreword by T. S. Brown (Routledge, £30) Classic history revived.

To Live Like Everyone, by Anatoly Marchenko, translated by Paul Goldberg, foreword by Andrei Sakharov (I. B. Tauris, £14.95).

Spring Jaunts, by Anthony Bailey (Faber £9.95) New Yorker walker.

The Textual Life of Dickens' Characters, by James A. Davies (Macmillan, £35) Modern distinctions between story and text.

Primate Visions, Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science, by Donna Haraway (Routledge, £40) Historian of biology.

Telly comes to supermarket

There persists the feeling — just as there once did about how wonderful our police force was — that our television is the best in the world. Is the belief justified or is it an example of the overrating to which the British are susceptible? Broadcasting soon faces a sharp test with the arrival of a fifth and possibly sixth channel, and competition from satellite television. What price the *Bandung File*?

The Prime Minister has — no surprise, with her attitude towards enterprise — given the thumbs up to more television Channels. This comes with a reassurance that the medium will not be driven down-market, because "the British public can be more discriminating than that". The traditional response to this is that the British public doesn't have the foggiest what it wants. Besides, goes the claim, what makes Britain broadcast great is the notion of public service, and fundamental to its principles is that celebrated trinity of information, entertainment, and education — so gloriously realized by *Jim'll Fix It*.

Though there is much — well, some — that is good (and here the word quality invariably gets used), television is not, on the whole, a challenging medium, being too controlled and the participants too unctuous. There still exists, as part of the legacy of Auntie Beeb, an idea of television being something invited by us into the living-room that should mind its Ps and Qs. Exceptions tend to occur when the real world intrudes: Bob Geldof jolted us out of complacency by pictures of Ethiopian famine. But, for the most part, slumped in front of the box, one feels more like a customer in a dozy village shop.

In retail terms, broadcasting now stands on the threshold of the supermarket age. The prospect of extraterrestrial television makes those old Starline kids — ITV and BBC — who have until now had the broad and happy highway of television to themselves — nervous of getting the shunt. Their bleak goes: increased competition will lead to loss of quality, because stuff for which there is only a particular demand, but which is felt to be for the general good — television's equivalent of green vegetables — will be abandoned. Junk food will rule. But, insists the Government, its policy "places the viewer at the centre of broadcasting". Out goes the

emphasis on passive viewers; in comes an insistence on us as active consumers (though Mrs Thatcher will be the first to chastise us for consuming too many burgers, chips, and beans). A cynical retort would be that active consumption in this wonderland will mean about as much as offering us all a vote in the Eurovision Song Contest.

The first half of this book offers a diligent summary of the history of broadcasting in terms of organization not product; a history of White Papers and committees. It traces the tacit relationship between broadcasting and government, and notes that broadcasters are more deferential than they were to the Government's muzzles. It shows how the Government has come to view broadcasting as an economic rather than a cultural force, as an adjunct to the electronics industry. "The medium was important because it could generate profits; the message it carried was not the first or even major consideration."

The authors offer this as further evidence to a general criticism that the Thatcher Government "has no cultural policy". British broadcasting is coming to the end of its protracted age of innocence.

The sub-title of this book could well be "The Carve-up of Broadcasting". If Mrs Thatcher has her way, the BBC will have to pay its way, like everything else. The second half of the book offers speculation by those involved — producers, unionists, advertisers, satellites. Most are given to such sloppy expression — there are broadly speaking, frankys, melting-pots, pragmatics, brave new worlds, arguably, even a post-White Paper situation — that one would hesitate to buy even a second-hand set from them. Predictions alternate between bonanza time and a new cultural barbarism. At worst, the 1990s will see the dismantling of an effective public service and the loss of anything that does not conform to mass marketing. Any claim that television has to be an investigative medium will be threatened. On the other hand, with the abolition of the duopoly and the establishing of satellite channels we are promised all the choice in the world. And if little is clear beyond general speculation, at least Mrs Thatcher's vision of future broadcasting is all choice and no argument.

Lost Powys parable rewon

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

FATHER ADAM
By T. F. Powys
Brynmill Press, £8.40

MOTHER EARTH AND OTHER STORIES
By Chingiz Aitmatov
Translated by Jim Jordan
Faber, £12.99

CONFESSIONS OF LOVE

By Uno Chiyo
Translated by Phyllis Birnbaum
Peter Owen, £12.95

THE ALCHEMIST
By Mark Illis
Bloomsbury, £12.95

T. F. Powys wrote *Father Adam* in the early Twenties. It has rested in the archives unpublished, until it kicks off a projected reprinting of the author's many novels and a biography of him. It is high time, and not too late. For *Father Adam* has been ridiculously neglected — even by the writer himself. Resurrected, as so many lost manuscripts are these days, from the archives at Austin, Texas, which seem to be the repositories of most of the wit and wisdom of Britain between the world wars, *Father Adam* is elegant and amusing, profound and sparse. The introduction does it an injustice — it is no experiment, but a Spartan achievement. Brevity may be the soul of wit, but it is also the essence of the novella. No word is wasted in this tale of the dying Ralph Crew, who has always tried to keep the Ten Commandments as other people try to keep dividends. The shorthand of Powys is his humour. The reader is given notes on various lives counterpointed with strange and true details. Incongruity provokes laughter. Crew scratches the ribs delicately. Crew bequeaths a living and the keeping of the Ten Commandments to Father Gabriel Adam, an apostle sent to earth, who happens to meet his village Eva... And so read on. The terse excellence of this early book by T. F. Powys is both a parable and a brief delight. A new commandment is finally given — that ye love one another. This is something to make a new year.

Chingiz, like the great destroying Khan, is a good name on the steppes and in the Tien Shans, the mountains where the Kirgiz still graze their camels and sheep and horses near the borders of China. Chingiz Aitmatov, the popular author of *Mother Earth* and *Other Stories*, was brought up among these heirs of the Mongols; his father and two uncles were shot in one of Stalin's purges; yet he became a leading member of the Writers' Union and won the Lenin Prize for Literature. He has adapted the oral folklore of his people to the technological changes brought by the Russian Revolution. Communist and conservative, prophet and reactionary, he writes because he can hardly reconcile the contradictory impulses that rage within his people and himself. The solution is a mysticism of the soil, which finally binds everything: earth to dust to ashes.

An old mother talks to a field in "Mother Earth" and recalls the passing of the nomads, the coming of the combine harvesters and the trains, the effect of distant wars on the land and those who stayed behind. Adolescents describe adult ways in "Jamila" and "Camel Eye": women are the unknowable centres of persistent love in most of the stories. The courage to endure is all. A primitive animism suffuses these Kirgiz tales: fields and plants talk back, nature communicates. To lose that link is to lose life. Aitmatov is no Isaac Babel, riding with the Cossacks to fight. His heroes and heroines are bound to pasture and furrow, the voices of the steppe and slope, with the furies of revolution and conflict mere echoes from a far ravine. Uno Chiyo's life is as extraor-

inary as her books. In her way, she is the Japanese combination of Coleridge and Elinor Glyn. *Confessions of Love* purports to be the memoirs of a married artist, with whom Chiyo lived for five years. She met him after his failed suicide attempt with his mistress: they made love on the blood-soaked bed. These peccadilloes of a feeble and egotistic painter appear to owe more to Chiyo than to him: they seem to be humiliation rather than revelation, abasement rather than *amour*. The tough young women of the Twenties pursue and take the artist, whose failings outweigh his attractions. Weak men are all the rage in Japan, but only a woman could confess that of them.

Mark Illis takes the reader through the flawed innocence and magic perceptions of childhood and adolescence. Billy is led into mystery and conspiracy, burglary and evil. His father's bold schemes, such as infiltrating Mills & Boon with literature like *Middlemarch*, his *The Circus of Delights* of Mr Melody, and the get-rich-quick plots of J. T. Archer, are all forms of alchemy. Melody defines it best in his search for the Perfect Sweet: alchemy is the making of something golden from mundane materials.

That is what Illis does in *The Alchemist*, transforming an ordinary child-rearing and introduction to sin into a fantastic and dangerous quest for truth. In a finale that is nightmare and spell, Archer reveals himself as Melville's Confidence Man — a performer who believes in his every role, and thus has integrity within his many faces. Illis has the gift of the philosopher's stone.

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THE ARTS/FILM

Geoff Brown reviews *Parenthood*, a distorted cameo of family life, while David Robinson looks at the agony of Vietnam memories in *In Country*

Playing happy families



Togetherness: Steve Martin and Mary Steenburgen share a quiet moment during the struggle of parenting

While *Parenthood* celebrates the joys and strife of raising children, *Turner & Hooch* beats the drum for dogs. Not that Hooch is a choice specimen: this hunk (one of the French breed *De Bordeaux*) is a consummate drooler and wrecker of furniture, with a fine collection of dangling jowls. By a twist of the thunderously moribund plot — concocted by five writers — he is matched with Turner (Tom Hanks), an obsessively fussy small-town police investigator, bent on solving a murder

to which Hooch was the sole witness. The two begin as growing antagonists; by the end, of course, they are devoted chums.

Hanks is such a nimble comedian that it hurts to see his talents yoked to this routine script. The dog, played by Beasley, is no slouch, either: they milk everything possible from the scenes of tussle and mayhem. Against this pair, the romantic interest (the new local vet) has the impact of a limp lettuce, while the final rush of melodrama seems a grotesque intrusion.

Next time around, someone should point a gun at Ron Howard and force him to direct something small. So far, it has not happened — unless one remembers his modest debut feature *Grand Theft Auto*, a car-crash bonanza from the genre's heyday in the mid-Seventies.

Parenthood follows in the genial, but over-ambitious footsteps of *Splash* and *Cocoon*: a sprawling comic saga, forever on the brink of saying something meaningful about family life, forever collapsing into detachable comic sketches. As many of the sketches feature Steve Martin — heading a remarkably strong cast as an over-anxious parent straining for perfection and surrounded by domestic strife — the film is easy to enjoy. But a stronger controlling hand (with less of a sweet tooth) would have stopped the script dribbling and given it far more punch.

Parenthood throws us into the vortex of one of those large well-upholstered American families, forever gathering for parties and dinners, spiritually, if not geographically, we are close to recent Woody Allen country (this is St Louis, rather than New York State). Jason Roberts is the patriarch, casting a sardonic eye on his children's progress. Martin, aside, the line-up includes Dianne West (divorced, coping with two nasty offspring — one sullen, one sneering); Rich Moranis as an idiotic egghead, putting his three-year-old through karate, Kafka and foreign languages; and Tom Hulse as the black sheep who turns up to shelter and sponge.

Howard once more proves himself a gifted manipulator of actors, though the viability of what they perform sees-saws from moment to moment. Mary Steenburgen radiates quietly as Martin's hard-pressed wife; and Martin's routines (some birthday party fooling, a victory dance after their son makes a crucial baseball catch) are delicious plums.

But once the comic temperature drops and Howard dons his thinking cap, the film's vision of family life becomes bland and hollow.

When Roberts caves in to Hulse's entreaties, finding his flight to South America while offering to bring up the pest's son, the proper reaction is not a tear-stained smile, but an exasperated yell of disbelief.

Geoff Brown



Revelations: Emily Lloyd, an excited adventurer, with Bruce Willis

Hollywood is currently deeply concerned with the trauma and legacy of the Vietnam war. Norman Jewison's *In Country* (15, Warner West End), adapted from a novel by the Kentucky writer Bobby Ann Mason, sees it from the viewpoint of Samantha (Emily Lloyd), a girl whose father was killed in action before she was born.

Leaving school at the age her father was when he died, she is suddenly driven to discover more about this man she never knew.

The people around her are reluctant to dredge their memories. Her mother has moved on to a new life. The war-veteran uncle with whom she lives (Bruce Willis) has retreated into cynicism, reclusive eccentricity. His contemporaries have found their own ways to evade the resentment and guilt.

Samantha's persistence forces a few of them to face — and sometimes exorcise — the past.

The script by Frank Pierson and Cynthia Cidre attempts to deal with more characters and more aspects of the Vietnam trauma than it can really come to grips with. The fragmented narrative, shaped by the novel, runs the constant risk of what was pinpointed years ago by Miles Forman: "Without a story, even with the most incredible artistry, you will be boring. Without a story there is no movie."

True, there is artistry. The final sequence, where Samantha takes her uncle and rustic grandparents to the Washington war memorial, is surprisingly touching, a skilful mixture of tact, sentiment and the banal.

The film, moreover, has Emily Lloyd, whose sparkly vitality dominates the action. She has a quality of coming alive on screen, and of convincing us that she is impelled by real thoughts and feelings.

Even given the number of accomplished young actresses available in Hollywood it is easy to see why Jewison would cast this remarkable young English personality in a role which demands such varied reaction to the mysteries of adults and their history.

The star of Percy Adlon's *Rosalie Goes Shopping* (Screen on the Hill, Chelsea Cinema, Cannon Shafesbury Avenue) is Marianne Sägebrecht — the stout, solemn young lady who was seen in *Sugar Baby* and invading the American West in *Bagdad Café*. Now she is seen established in the little town of Stuttgart, Arkansas, as the "peace-time war-bride" of a crop-sprayer pilot (Brad Davis). She

David Robinson

Bethnal Green boy Philip Ridley bounds from strength to strength. Oscar Moore reports

East End to West End



Ridley: gifted with verbal and visual skills

Imagination filled with birds, insects and reptiles; with Ridley's own, very particular, set of demons. It is an imagination fermented in the insiders-only world of Bethnal Green, the heart of London's East End: a world of brick streets and thin walls, where everybody knows a little too much about everyone else. A world where Philip Ridley grew up and where he still lives, complaining about the noise of Marlinton through his thin walls.

Who better then, than this painter-writer-director, wrapped up in an East End more sinister and intriguing than anything imagined in Albert Square, to script *The Krays*? Well, at the time Philip Ridley could think of quite a few better people.

"When Dominic Anciano and Jim Beach approached me first of all, I said no, because I thought they would want some kind of 'Sweeney meets The Professionals' with that sort of violence throughout. I had no interest in writing that sort of film, but I gave them *In The Eyes of Mr. Fury* to read, and I said to them, 'If you're interested in this kind of style, then I'm interested in doing the film.'"

In fact, Ridley had always been keen to write the screenplay, as long as he could write it his way. After all, in East End demography, who is more potent than Reggie and Ronnie? Like many kids born in the Sixties, Ridley grew up hearing whispered stories through half-opened bedroom doors: stories of men buried in concrete flyovers; stories of kindness to old ladies.

Although the controversy still simmers as to whether Ridley has underplayed the violence or glamorized it, Ridley himself is immersed in a new world. *The Reflecting Skin* is set in a completely different cinematic landscape. Ridley has left the crime-ridden streets of the concrete jungle for the endless horizons of Canada, revealing an allegiance to the film-terrain of Terrence Malick, one of the very few American directors Ridley admires.

Set in Fifties mid-west North America, and backed by the BBC, British Screen and Zenith, *The Reflecting Skin* is an unusual, intimidating film. A rite of passage, charting the painful loss of innocence of its eight-year-old hero, it was described by one crew member as "Stand By Me meets *Blue Velvet*". Ridley likes the description.

"It was a difficult film to pull off, because the dialogue is very stylized, and it could quite easily lapse into some cheapo American Gothic. But it is a very sad film, and a devastating indictment of what can happen to a child." For his first full-length feature, Ridley is not making his life easier: filming in a foreign country with a foreign crew and an eight-year-old boy in every scene.

But Ridley seems to have survived with more anecdotes than traumas. "There was one magical moment, when I was doing this tracking shot of the boy running through wheat. I was setting the shot up with my cameraman Dick Pope. Dick looked through the lens and said, 'Oh yes. In 20 years' time people will look at a shot like this and say, 'Very Reflecting Skin'. And I said, 'Yes. But will they mean it as a compliment?'"

Question of right and wrong

Peter Guttridge looks at the interpretation of *A Dry White Season*

Paula Weinstein as producer and she paid off Welland. "Colin's script was extremely well written but it wasn't the story I wanted to tell," says Weinstein. "I had long admired the novel but thought the movie had to show the struggle and pain of the blacks. I also thought it should reveal Ben as an active rather than a passive man. When we met in 1986, Euzhan agreed."

"The book is all about Ben, the education of a white man in South Africa," says Weinstein. "I didn't want to make that film. It is more compelling to have it as a film about two families, one black and one white. And the victimization they suffer because of the minority-rule system."

Welland is still credited as co-writer of the screenplay. "I'd written a couple of versions of the script when I was paid off," he says. "Palczy rewrote the script but the Writers' Guild decided I got first credit. Palcley altered a lot of the dialogue and put other elements in. There is a revenge shooting of a South African policeman that is a bit Hollywood."

Weinstein comments: "Euzhan had a story in her head and I told her to write it. We had already discussed structuring it as a thriller."

The consequence of this structure and of concentrating on the two families is that many actors' parts were substantially reduced. Susan Sarandon's part as a liberal journalist all but vanished. Janet Suzman, as Ben's wife, also had little screen time left.

"But I can see that the relationship between husband and wife was irrelevant because the thrust of the film is Ben with the black people," Suzman says. "And

there's enough left to show he had a good marriage. I think the film is a workmanlike thriller, a *roman policier*, I suppose. But the content is greater than the form."

Author André Brink is delighted with the results. "I was deeply impressed when I saw the film," he says. "I was prepared for some major changes but by and large they are justified. I wish I had done one or two myself."

"On the whole I approve of the fact they have made it a thriller. Here and there a touch of understatement could have worked — for example in the torture scenes. But I understand from people who have experienced these things that those scenes are true to life."

"After *Cry Freedom* and *A World Apart* there couldn't be another film seen only from a white point of view. There is an element of Hollywoodizing. And

there's a contrived happy ending, but that's OK. On a philosophical level I can justify that — to show the struggle can be won."

Weinstein says: "It's a thriller in the spirit of the book. The thriller aspect has to kick in because we can't just preach at people. And the ending is not Hollywood, that's how Euzhan and I saw it. The novel is 10 years old. We didn't want to say 'become active and die'. We wanted to show the possibility of change. We also wanted to show this was fundamentally a black struggle."

Weinstein is, she says, "extremely proud of the movie. Euzhan did it wonderfully. It was her project. She was absolutely committed to it. She was offered a lot of material after *Sugar Gone Alley* but she never wavered. She was positively convinced this was the film she wanted to make."

"Through all the ups and downs of getting the picture made it was clear we were doing it for reasons far beyond 'just another movie'."

However, Marlon Brando fears that is just what they have done. *A Dry White Season* opens in Britain this month.

VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A selection of films recently released on video. The date refers to the year of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

BEYOND THE VALLEY OF THE DOLLS (CBS/Fox, 18): Delicious camp extravaganza from the king of skinkflicks, Russ Meyer, made in 1970 during his brief flirtation with mainstream Hollywood. The plot — three girls' adventures in show business — bears a slight resemblance to the 1967 *Valley of the Dolls*, but that's where the comparison ends.

DISTANT THUNDER (CIC, 18): Labyrinthine re-hash of Vietnam war Angst, with John Lithgow as the veteran hiding with his memories in the hills of Washington State, and Ralph Macchio as the son determined to bring him home. Director: Rick Rosenthal.

FEDS (Warner, 15): *Police Academy* in skirts, with Rebecca DeMornay and Mary Gross as FBI trainees running the gauntlet of

their male colleagues. Flat low-brow comedy. 1988.

JAWS 3 (CIC, 15): *Jaws* 3-D originally, with lots of underwater photography and the usual quota of chewed humans. Modest fare; with Dennis Quaid and Bess Armstrong. 1983.

JAWS 4 (CIC, 15): A stronger plot than its predecessor (the widow of the sheriff in the original film believes her family is the subject of a shark vendetta), though its potential is frittered away. With Lorraine Gray. 1987.

JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL (CIC, 15): Richard Bach's preposterous fable about a seagull's search for perfection provides a feast of wildlife photography (the only humans are behind the camera). The philosophizing and Neil Diamond's music are, however, strictly a matter of taste. 1973.

MISSING LINK (CIC, PG): Dialogue-less oddity with an ecological message, featuring Peter Elliott encased in one of Rick Baker's make-up specials as the world's last apeman, doomed to extinction by the violent upstart,

man. Filmy as a narrative, but handsomely shot in Namibia. 1988.

MYRA BRECKINRIDGE (CBS/Fox, 18): Gore Vidal's satirical novel about Hollywood power-mongering, filmed by ex-pop singer Michael Sarne as a crude charade; with Raquel Welch as the film critic transformed by a sex-change operation. Worth a glance for the indomitable Mae West, nearing 80. 1970.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 4 — THE DREAM MASTER (CBS/Fox, 18): "Did you ever look at our town's history? It's not exactly a safe place to be a teenager!" cries a youngster destined to be minicameo in the hands of Freddy Krueger, child murderer and cult movie hero. Grizzly mayhem with lavish effects but it contains little imagination. 1988.

RED SCORPION (Vestron, 15): Absurd action fantasy, wisely released straight to video, with biceps-strewn Hulk Dobel Lundgren (Stallone's Russian opponent in *Rocky IV*) as a Soviet special agent who swaps sides during a mission to kill a rebel African leader. A comic strip on film. 1988.



Agreement: Marlon Brando joining forces with Donald Sutherland

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Leslie Walton
and Gillian MaxeyCounsel
for the
bereaved

Peter Waymark

Nikki Cheatham's 40 Minutes film A Place For Tom (BBC2, 9.30pm) is in effect two documentaries, though they are closely interwoven. The first explores the effect on parents (and, in one case, a grandparent) of losing young children. The second concerns the Alder Centre, an offshoot of the Alder Hey children's hospital in Liverpool, which has pioneered an enterprising new approach towards helping parents to overcome their grief. Tom, the baby son of Dave and Sue Sutton, died three years ago at seven and a half months. It happened at the worst possible time, just before Christmas. When the next Christmas came round, one of the other Sutton children asked whether it was his turn to die. But, like other bereaved parents, the



See Sutton and her three children, with a picture of baby Tom (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Suttons appreciated the open policy of Alder Hey hospital over mortuary visits and access to post-mortem reports and have since benefited from the enlightened counselling at the Alder Centre. Often the worst thing a bereaved parent has to bear is the (doubtless unintentional) insensitivity of people who have not had the same experience. It is expressed in such dismissive phrases as "you've got other children", "pull yourself together" and "time will heal". As the cases in this film demonstrate, time does not necessarily heal. The work of the Alder Centre is based on the recognition that it is easier to come to terms with grief by talking about it, with counsellors or others in a similar position, than trying to suppress it.

● In This Week (ITV, 8.30pm) Joan Shepton reports on the growing controversy surrounding hormone replacement therapy or HRT. The medical case for HRT is that it can relieve menopause symptoms and help avoid thinning bones which can lead to osteoporosis and disabling fractures in older women. According to John Studd, a consultant gynaecologist who runs several menopause clinics, it is "the most important development in preventive medicine in the western world for half a century". On the other hand, there is evidence that women on HRT stand a greater risk of developing breast cancer. There is also a commercial headache. With the HRT market doubling between 1988 and 1989, and the prospect that two million women will be on HRT by the end of the century, competition among the drug companies is intense.

BBC

6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando. Includes news headlines every 15 minutes, and regular sports bulletins, weather, regional news and travel, and a review of the morning newspapers by Paul Cullen 8.55 Regional News and weather

9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air with Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving. To contribute, ring 061 814 0424

9.20 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion
10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold. Quiz (r)

10.25 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, starts with Playdays. The Patchy Show (r)

10.30 Pantomime Peas. Mound of Trouble (r)

10.55 Five to Eleven with Eileen Atkins
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Jonathan Powell and Alan Yentob, the controllers of BBC1 and BBC2, answer viewers' questions

12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live with Alan Titchmarsh and Judith Spink 12.45 Regional News and weather

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Haykin, followed by Weather with John Kelly

1.30 Neighbours. Cupid aims an arrow at Mrs Mangel and John Worthington, and there is an unfortunate incident with Madge's car during the competition. (Cee-fax)

1.50 Going for Gold. Quiz with Henry Kelly

2.15 Film: No Man of Her Own (1950, b/w), melodrama starring Barbara Stanwyck, John Lund and the Cowell. A rich couple ponder over a dark secret that has been concealed for many years. Directed by Mitchell Leison

3.50 Children's BBC, presented by Andi Peters, starts with Doolby Duck's Disco Ball (r) 3.55 Charlie Chaplin, Arnold's Night Out (r) 4.10 Ten in a Bed. Little Girl Sandwich, narrated by Victoria Wood (r) 4.25 New York Bear Show. Buffalo Bill 4.35 Alfonso Bonzo. The Mouse Project 5.00 Newswatch with Roger Finn and Helen Rolleston 5.05 Blue Peter with Yvette Fielding, Carol Keating and John Leslie. (Cee-fax)

5.35 Neighbours. A chance to see the episode shown earlier. (Cee-fax)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Andrew Harvey, followed by Weather with Ian McCaskill

6.30 Newswatch South East
7.00 Top of the Pops with DJ Simon Mayo (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)

7.30 EastEnders. Michelle has something on her mind but is reluctant to share it with her mother; Wicksy finds it difficult to confess his feelings; and Marge realises who her real friends are. (Cee-fax)

8.00 Tomorrow's World. Howard Stableford reports from the European Space Agency mission control in Darmstadt, from where last August the 2200 million satellite "Hippocampus" hurtled into the wrong orbit

8.30 May to December. The second part of a romantic drama comedy about a wealthy, middle-aged Scottish widow who falls in love with a 27-year-old PE teacher. Stars Eve Matheson and Anton Rodgers. (Cee-fax)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk, followed by Regional News and weather

9.30 One Foot in the Grave. The Big Sleep. The second part of a comedy series about 80-year-old Victor who is waking up to the realization of what enforced early retirement means after 28 years as a security officer. Stars Richard Wilson and Annette Crockett

10.00 Speak for Yourself. The BBC chairman, Marmaduke Hussey, and the director-general, Michael Checkland, answer viewers' questions about programmes and schedules

11.00 Cagney and Lacey. Chop Shop. A dangerous operation to uncover a car-theft network goes wrong and a colleague's life hangs in the balance. Stars Sharon Gless and Type Day (r)

11.45-11.50 Weather

BBC2

6.00 TV-am starts with News and Good Morning Britain, presented by Richard Keys and from 7.00, by Michael Morris and Linda Mitchell. Includes News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine with Kathy Taylor

9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word game with Annie Bennett

9.55 Thames News
10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a studio discussion

10.40 This Morning with Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Chris Steele, a family doctor, gives health advice. Includes News headlines at 10.55 and Regional News at 11.55

12.10 The Riddlers. Why are Mosepp and Tiddler fishing in the well?

12.30 Home and Away. Ailsa tells Alf that she is five months pregnant - but there is another secret she cannot share

1.00 News at One followed by national weather

1.20 Thames News and weather
1.30 Snooker. Third quarter final of the Mercantile Classic, presented by Tony Francis from Norbreck Castle, Blackpool

3.25 Thames News and weather
3.30 Sons and Daughters. Fiona presents Janice and Andy with a challenge. Beryl is having a hard time in prison

4.00 Children's ITV, presented by Jeanne Downes, starts with Hot Dog 4.15 Doganians and the Three Musketeers. Hurry Before the Adventure Starts (r) 4.40 Woodstock Doubles. In the last of the present series, it looks as if Roy's horrible sister has found out Eric's secret. (Cee-fax)

5.10 Blockbusters. Quiz with Bob Holness

5.40 News followed by national weather. (Cee-fax)

6.00 Home and Away. A chance to see an episode shown earlier today

6.25 Thames News and weather
6.50 Thames Help with Jackie Sprackley

7.00 Emmerdale. Nick Bates and Dolly start work. Nick Bates is the tough, while Dolly is the soft one. Zoe is trying to start work on her college project, but finds the local farmers far from helpful

7.30 Survival. Gila Monstrum, featuring the world's most monstrous lizards - the gila monster and bearded lizard. One lives in a humid forest, the other in a desert

8.00 The Bill. I Thought You'd Gone. It is the last of a Sun Hill police station for Inspector Frazer and PC Taffy Edwards. Tosh Lines starts a rumour that the book Frazer is planning to write is a kiss-and-tell story of life at Sun Hill. (Cee-fax)

8.30 This Week (see Choice)

9.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. The Copper Beaches. The case for governor for Jethro Rucastle seems perfect for young Violet Hunter - apart from the fact that she has been told to have her head shaved before starting work. Agreeing to the strange request, she heads for Hampshire, but soon sends a plea for help to Holmes

9.30 News at Ten followed by national weather. (Cee-fax)

10.30 Thames News and weather
10.35 The City Programme includes a look at the TSB

11.05 Snooker. Tonight's games should be a close-run affair. In the Mercantile Classic, presented by Tony Francis from Norbreck Castle, Blackpool

1.30 Superstars of Wrestling. A new series from America

2.30 News headlines followed by Film: Woman Chases Man (1957, b/w). Miriam Hopkins, Joel McCrea and Charles Winninger. A romantic comedy about a feminist architect who persuades a millionaire to invest in a property development project. Directed by John G. Blystone

4.00 News headlines followed by Three's Company. Upstairs, Downstairs. Chaos ensues when Jack tries to juggle three dinners in three different apartments

4.30 American Top 10 with Casey Kasem (r)

5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

BBC2

6.00 News 8.15 Westminster 9.00 The Little Train to Lynton (r) 9.30 Benjamin in Australia (r) 9.55 The Historyman. The Little Church at Braxted (r)

10.00 Carrol and Hardy (b/w). Night of the Living Dead (1968, b/w), starring Robert Munsch and Barbara Hale. A cowhand teaches a youngster the ways of Texan life. Directed by Edward King

11.20 Film: Man Alive (1945, b/w), starring Pat O'Brien and Adolphe Menjou. A desperate businessman tries to win back his wife after her old flame sparks into life. Directed by Ray Enright

12.30 The Samurai from Tickenham (r) 1.25 Fingermouse. Drum (r) 1.35 Lock, Stock, and Barrel

2.00 News and weather followed by In the Garden. January. First of a new monthly series

2.15 Antiques Roadshow from Blackpool (r). (Cee-fax)

3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live, including Prime Minister's Question Time

3.30 News and weather followed by Regional News and weather

4.00 News and weather followed by Behind the Headlines with Paul Boasting, MP, and Jeffrey Archer

5.00 Northern Arts. John Arkin, the sculptor, talks about the influence of Owen's poetry on his work (r)

5.10 Horizon. Oil Spill (r). (Cee-fax)

6.00 Film: Moby Dick (1956), starring Gregory Peck, Orson Welles and Richard Widmark. Adventure, set in the 1840s, about a young sailor who joins a whaling ship and encounters Captain Ahab, a man obsessed with trying to kill the whale that took his leg. Directed by John Huston. (Cee-fax)

7.50 The Eurythmics (r)

8.10 Wide World. Prayers to the Raven. The first of two award-winning anthologies of the Great American's most northerly group of Indians, the Koyukuk of Alaska

9.00 Monty Python's Flying Circus (r)

9.30 40 Minutes (see Choice). (Cee-fax)

10.10 Screenplay Firsts: The Audition, starring Jane Wright and Edith Armstrong, is about a film director who auditions her mother for a part in a television series. John, who is keeping a professional relationship between them is easier said than done. Directed by David Hazlett

10.30 Newsnight with Donald Macleod. The RTV's Stephen Weather

11.30 Darts. Embassy world professional championship

12.20 Behind the Headlines (r)

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALKER 6.30-7.00pm Wales Today 10.45-11.00pm Wales Today 11.00-11.15pm Wales Today 11.15-11.30pm Wales Today 11.30-11.45pm Wales Today 11.45-12.00pm Wales Today 12.00-12.15pm Wales Today 12.15-12.30pm Wales Today 12.30-12.45pm Wales Today 12.45-1.00pm Wales Today 1.00-1.15pm Wales Today 1.15-1.30pm Wales Today 1.30-1.45pm Wales Today 1.45-2.00pm Wales Today 2.00-2.15pm Wales Today 2.15-2.30pm Wales Today 2.30-2.45pm Wales Today 2.45-3.00pm Wales Today 3.00-3.15pm Wales Today 3.15-3.30pm Wales Today 3.30-3.45pm Wales Today 3.45-4.00pm Wales Today 4.00-4.15pm Wales Today 4.15-4.30pm Wales Today 4.30-4.45pm Wales Today 4.45-5.00pm Wales Today 5.00-5.15pm Wales Today 5.15-5.30pm Wales Today 5.30-5.45pm Wales Today 5.45-6.00pm Wales Today 6.00-6.15pm Wales Today 6.15-6.30pm Wales Today 6.30-6.45pm Wales Today 6.45-7.00pm Wales Today 7.00-7.15pm Wales Today 7.15-7.30pm Wales Today 7.30-7.45pm Wales Today 7.45-8.00pm Wales Today 8.00-8.15pm Wales Today 8.15-8.30pm Wales Today 8.30-8.45pm 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£300m in new aid to help disabled

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

A £300 million package to help 850,000 disabled people, including a new benefit to encourage the disabled to take up work, was announced by the Government yesterday.

The proposals were attacked by the Opposition and by disability organizations, however, as an insult.

Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security, told the Commons the package would help the long-term disabled with the extra costs of disability, improve benefits for those unable to work and help those who wanted to work to get or keep jobs.

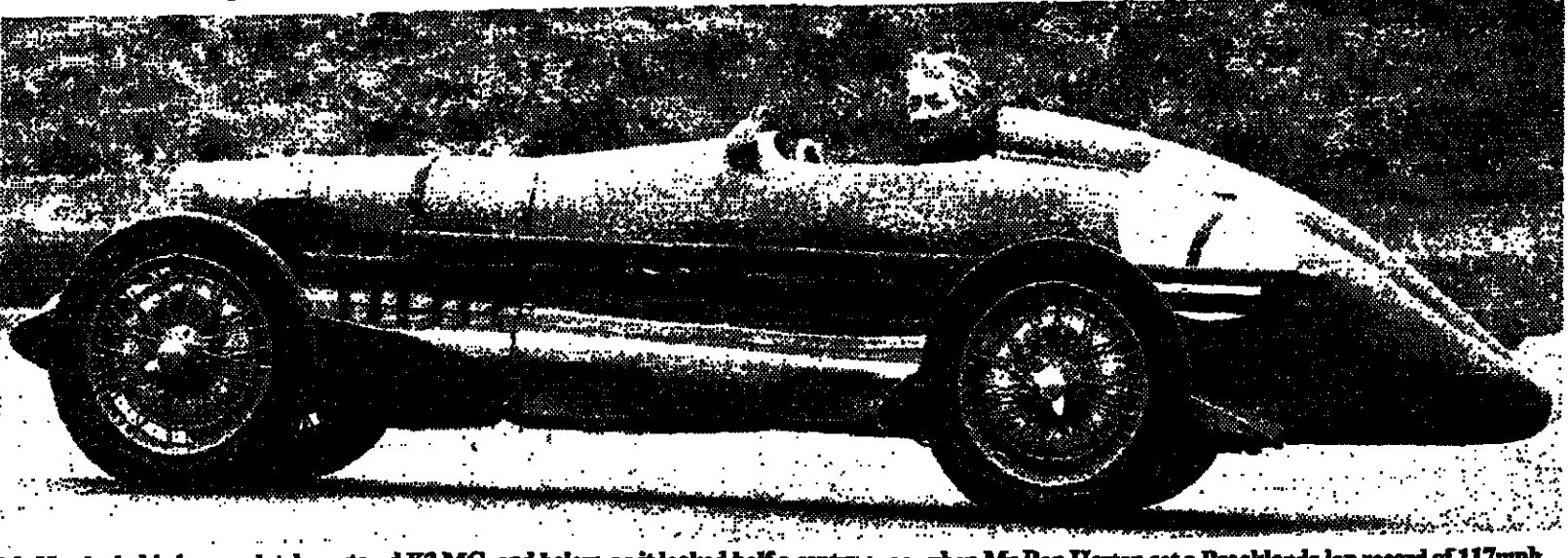
The Labour Party attacked the "derisory sum" and argued that seven out of eight disabled people had been ignored. The Disability Alliance said the proposals were "an insult to disabled people."

The announcement, backed by a 70-page command paper, is the formal response to six surveys on disability from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. About 250,000 people aged under 40 who do not qualify for invalidity benefit will receive an extra £10 a week on top of the £28.20 severe disablement allowance.

The changes, over two years, include a new credit expected to encourage 35,000 disabled people to find work.

Parliament, page 7

Racing history bought with a bottle of whisky



Mr Hawke in his immaculately restored K3 MG, and below, as it looked half a century ago, when Mr Ron Horton set a Brooklands lap record of 117mph.



The investment of a bottle of whisky has turned into £200,000 for the love Mr Mike Hawke lavished on his immaculately restored K3 MG racing car: that was the price he paid 20 years ago in Singapore for one of just 33 examples of the car. He was a shipbuilder in 1970 with the Ministry of Defence when he advertised for an

MG (Kevin Eason writes). "A bloke turned up with a horrible rusting lump of an engine," he said, "and to be polite, I gave him a bottle of whisky and took it." Only on his return did Mr Hawke, of Bradford-upon-Avon, Wiltshire, realize the car's history when he wrote to MG to discover which model he had acquired. The

first owner was Mr Ron Horton, who broke the lap record of 117.7mph at Brooklands in 1933. Major "Goldie" Gardner painted it racing green to win a series of British class records before it was taken in 1939 by Mr Michael Jennings to Singapore, where it was dismantled after the Japanese invasion. Mr Hawke has managed to find

the parts to make the K3 a car which experts agree could be worth as much as £200,000. This investment does not, however, languish under cover in a garage. "I race it about once a year at Silverstone with varying success," Mr Hawke said. "Its £200,000 price tag does not stop me using it. It is loud and messy, but that's half the beauty."

Commons sketch

A testing time for MPs' party pieces

Fresh from the New Year Honours, the Foreign Office Minister of State, the Right Honourable (now) William Waldegrave was in a mood yesterday to be gracious.

"The right hon gentleman," he remarked to the shadow Foreign Secretary, Gerald Kaufman, "summarizes the truth eloquently." That's the nicest thing a politician has done to the truth in many a long year, and Mr Kaufman looked pleased with the tribute.

It turned out to be his last. I often think that much heartache could be saved if candidates for political office were subjected to a simple screening process at the outset, to ensure that they were of the right cast of mind for the party rough-and-tumble. This test is submitted as a suitable start to such an exam.

In Foreign Office Questions on January 10 1990, Ministers prefaced their answers to various MPs with the following phrases. You may see that they fall into two broad groups.

Taking each group in turn, can you find any link between its MPs? (Clue: something is missing from the designation following each MP's name).

1. Michael Jack (Fylde): "My hon friend is quite right."

2. Harry Cohen (Leyton): "The hon member is a good bit out of date."

3. Dave Nellist (Coventry SE): "That was pretty defensive stuff."

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE, to:

4. John Maples (Lewisham W): "He is entirely right."

5. Gerald Bowden (Dulwich): "The answer is a clear yes."

6. George Robertson (Hamilton): "The hon member is a little out of date."

TIM SAINSBURY, to:

7. Steven Norris (Epping Forest): "He has considerable experience and personal knowledge."

FRANCIS MAUDE, to:

8. Donald Anderson (Swansea E): "The hon gentleman is trying, but to little effect."

Readers of *The Times* certainly do not need to be told the answers. But for successful candidates, a tougher test might identify the high-fliers. There are certain colleagues whom even the politest ministers find it hard to compliment. Study the following extract from a Question by Mr Antony Marlow (C, Northampton N), about the EC.

"£2bn of British taxpayers' money goes into subsidising these Europeans who seem to do nothing but insult us..."

Now study the ministerial reply, from Francis Maude.

"The hon member is perfectly capable of holding up our angle in all this, and that is - perhaps - valuable."

1. Why is Mr Maude flustered? Why is he hedging?

2. Why did Hugh Dykes then shift away from Marlow on their shared bench?

3. Why did the Foreign Secretary cast his eyes heavenwards and grin?

Again, readers of this column need no help from me in answering these questions.

Generally, Francis Maude was in cool form. He was able to keep a straight face, for instance, when advising the House that "three Metropolitan Police officers" have been sent to El Salvador to help its government sort out recent killings there. At least we will know, now, how this mystery is likely to be resolved. Either the incidents will have been "accidental deaths", or else culprits will be identified and miraculously confess to virtually every other political crime in Latin America since the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors...

Our two main combatants, Mr Hurd and Mr Kaufman, were as cool as Maude. Modestly, Mr Kaufman did not extend his plans (announced before Christmas) to send refugees to "the Philippines or Indonesia" to the Arab-Israeli conflict - discussed, length yesterday.

As for Mr Hurd, his mask slipped only once. When Tam Dalyell rose to air yet again the Westland issue, Hurd lay back and shut his eyes. Those little "thinks" bubbles from comics would have risen above him with just one word: "CRIPES!"

Matthew Parris

The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship 1990 Qualifying Puzzle

Today we publish the qualifying puzzle for The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship.

Competition rules

Competitors may qualify by correctly solving and submitting this puzzle. They should complete the puzzle and enter form and post it with entry fee of £5 and stamped and addressed envelope by first class mail to Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship (to whom cheques should be made out). Green Farm, Sawley, Ripon, N Yorks, HG4 3EQ, so that the entry is postmarked not later than January 19. The solution will be published on January 22, and all competitors will be informed of the result not later than February 12, and whether they will be required to attempt the eliminator puzzle mentioned below.

Regional finals will be one-day (four-puzzle) events as follows. Glasgow, Stakis Grosvenor Hotel (capacity 150 competitors), Sunday, February 25;

Leeds, Queen's Hotel (300), Sunday, March 4; Birmingham, Grand Hotel (300), Sunday, April 29; Bristol, Hilton International Hotel (200), Sunday, May 13; London, Hilton Hotel, Park Lane (300), Saturday, June 2 (A) and Saturday, June 9 (B). No reference books or other aids may be used during the puzzle sessions. Refreshments will be provided free.

If the all-correct entries for any venue exceed the accommodation available, competitors will be required to attempt an eliminator puzzle which will be published (if it is needed) on Thursday, February 15. Competitors are warned that this will be a more than usually difficult puzzle but are reminded that incomplete (or only partly correct) solutions may well qualify, since only the least successful entries will be eliminated.

To try to avoid an eliminator for the Bristol venue, competitors willing to attend Birmingham instead if necessary are asked to show this on the form below, thus "Bristol (can attend

Birmingham)". No competitor will be moved between venues unless this indication has been given, and an eliminator will be held if necessary.

Competitors at a regional final may qualify for the National Final in the following way. The regional winner will qualify plus one additional competitor for every 60 competitors over the first 60; thus from 61-120 competitors two will qualify for the final, from 121-180 three will qualify, and so on. The qualifiers from the six regional finals will attend the National Final at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London, on Saturday, September 8.

Prizes given by Collins Publishers include the following: each regional champion will win a Collins Trophy and luxury weekend for two in London for the National Final including travel, deluxe hotel accommodation and meals. Prizes will be awarded to the next three places at each regional final.

Additional qualifiers will have their hotel and rail travel expenses paid to the National Final. The winner of the Championship receives a Collins Trophy and a £300 Gift Voucher and the runner-up and third and fourth places receive Harrods Gift Vouchers for £300, £200 and £100 respectively. Further prizes will be awarded down to eighth place.

In the event of any dispute the decision of the Crossword Editor of *The Times* will be final. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and of Collins Publishers may not compete.

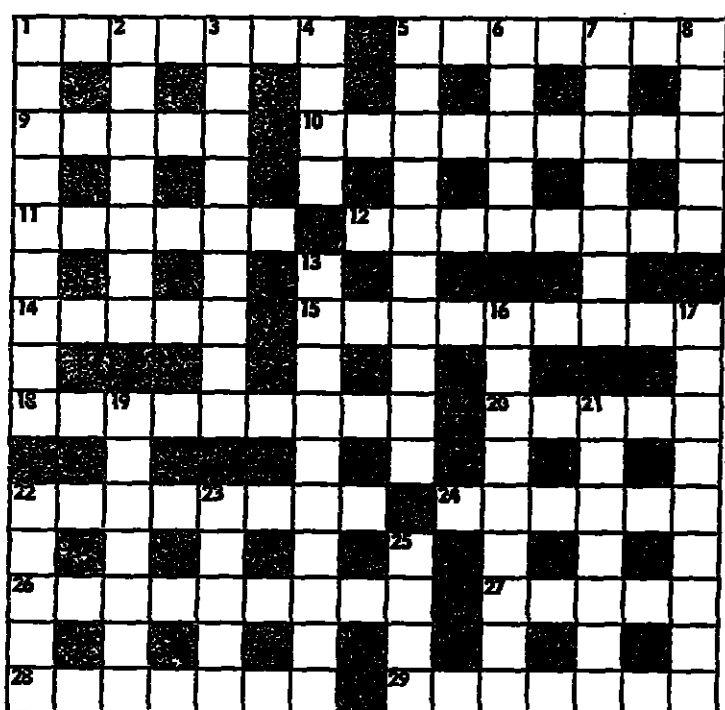
NAME (please print).....

ADDRESS.....

VENUE.....

Willing to attend Birmingham if necessary? Yes/No* (delete as applicable).
London applicants please state London A or London B, or either.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,188



- ACROSS
- Mark obstruction red... (7).
 - ... or do around the edges in red (7).
 - Notes as written by a Greek character (5).
 - A number, on joining, find chaos (9).
 - Measures taken by top men (6).
 - Housing Oriental people in temporary accommodation (8).
 - Before mid-winter time is a factor (5).
 - Plainly this isn't the way to use a needle (9).
 - A person saving money with poor diet's deplorable (9).
 - Watching some jockey in great form (5).
 - Drink with a politician if it should so chance (8).
- DOWN
- The city is distressed about smear article (9).
 - Sailors love change, that's clear (7).
 - One in fifty reprimands will result in tears (9).
 - Gather he was a forester (4).
 - Tale-tellers' objective (10).
 - Train that is about to speed up (5).
 - Order to go without gratuity or salary (7).
 - A little 9 - there's no catch! (5).
 - The graduate is not lacking in education (10).
 - Working relationship in a free environment (9).
 - This rogue might be made to be trustworthy (9).
 - Boss understands his reporters getting harassed (7).
 - One who doesn't feel obliged to see where the solid fuel goes (7).
 - He's always ready to take part when resting (5).
 - A very little crate, badly constructed (5).
 - Agitate for porridge (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- SYCOITIC
- Having an itchy beard
 - Mentally disturbed
 - Fig-eating
- AQUAMANILE
- A jug or ewer
 - Indoor running water
 - A leather garment
- DEAD-CAT BOUNCE
- A snooker shot
 - A snooker shot
 - A snooker shot
- QUIDDANY
- Whither?
 - Curiosity
 - A quince drink

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	701
C. London (within N & S Cirs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T.4233	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).	

Concise Crossword, page 18

Crackdown on dissent as martial law ends

Continued from page 1
his first visit to Peking since the military crackdown on the protests in June.

At Peking airport Sir David said he would "try to re-establish a dialogue" with China and to express the views of the people of Hong Kong. He is expected to raise the growing desire in Hong Kong for more rapid democratization leading up to the Chinese takeover in 1997.

But Mr Li's comments were tempered by a reaffirmation of the Peking regime's brutal attitude towards dissent. "No matter what may happen in the world, we will unwaveringly advance along the socialist road," he said in the televised address.

"The hostile forces inside and outside the country will not give up their attempt to subvert the socialist system in our country. We must remain vigilant."

News reports on the lifting of martial law inspired a mood of celebration in Hong Kong. But there was little public reaction, or cause for celebration, in Peking. Analysts say that the lifting of martial law is a cosmetic change aimed at improving the Peking Government's image abroad, while it continues the quiet suppression of dissent at home.

WASHINGTON: The Bush Administration yesterday hailed Peking's decision to lift martial law as vindication of the President's controversial overtures to the Chinese leadership (Martin Fletcher writes).

Rejecting the widely-held view that Peking's announcement was merely cosmetic, Mr Dan Quayle, the Vice-President, said it was a "positive step forward for human rights. I think you are beginning to see dividends from the President's policy toward China."

There were also indications yesterday that the White House was on the verge of reversing that conciliatory policy, possibly because of the lack of any substantial gesture from Peking.

Reports in both the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post* said the administration had decided to oppose the resumption of a \$700 million World Bank loan programme.

LONDON: Mr Ji Chou-Zou, the Chinese ambassador, speaking on BBC radio, defended the repression of the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square, but said "social order has been restored to normalcy. The tasks of martial law have been completed."

WEATHER

Western Scotland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. The rest of Scotland, and Northern Ireland, will have a cloudy start with rain, but it should become drier later. North-west England and Wales will see cloud and drizzle. Remaining parts of England will be cloudy at first with some rain, but it will become drier with sunny spells. Windy in the north-west, but mild everywhere. Outlook: rain spreading to all parts.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1=drizzle; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=sun; 5=cloud; 6=sun; 7=rain; 8=cloud; 9=drizzle; 10=drizzle; 11=drizzle; 12=drizzle.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	17-23	13-15	5-10	17-23	13-15	5-10
Alexandria	18-24	14-16	5-10	18-24	14-16	5-10
Athens	19-25	15-17	5-10	19-25	15-17	5-10
Bahia	22-28	18-20	5-10	22-28	18-20	5-10
Bombay	24-30	20-22	5-10	24-30	20-22	5-10
Buenos Aires	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Calcutta	26-32	22-24	5-10	26-32	22-24	5-10
Cairo	18-24	14-16	5-10	18-24	14-16	5-10
Cardiff	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Chennai	24-30	20-22	5-10	24-30	20-22	5-10
Cebu	26-32	22-24	5-10	26-32	22-24	5-10
Dublin	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Edinburgh	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Geneva	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Hong Kong	24-30	20-22	5-10	24-30	20-22	5-10
London	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Lyons	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Madrid	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Manchester	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Maracaibo	24-30	20-22	5-10	24-30	20-22	5-10
Mexico City	20-26	16-18	5-10	20-26	16-18	5-10
Moscow	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Montevideo	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Osaka	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Paris	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Peking	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Rangoon	24-30	20-22	5-10	24-30	20-22	5-10
Rio de Janeiro	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Sao Paulo	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Seoul	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Shanghai	10-16	10-12	5-10	10-16	10-12	5-10
Singapore	24-30	20-22	5-10	24-30	20-22	5-10
Sydney	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Taipei	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Tokyo	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10
Yokohama	15-21	11-13	5-10	15-21	11-13	5-10

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun area	Rain in	Max C	Max F	Cloud
London	10-16	8	6	46	sunny
Edinburgh	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Manchester	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Cardiff	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Belfast	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
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Birmingham	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Coventry	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Gloucester	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Exeter	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Cardiff	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Belfast	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Sheffield	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Nottingham	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Leeds	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Birmingham	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Coventry	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Gloucester	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Exeter	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Cardiff	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Belfast	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Sheffield	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Nottingham	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Leeds	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Birmingham	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Coventry	10-16	8	10	50	sunny
Gloucester	10-16				

THURSDAY JANUARY 11 1990

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● TECHNOLOGY 32-33
● SPORT 34-40

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6615 (+0.0080)

W German mark
2.7921 (+0.0118)

Exchange index
88.0 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1936.4 (-20.1)

FT-SE 100
2412.6 (-23.7)

USM (Datastream)
157.70 (+0.07)

Market report, page 26

Hanson to
pay 10.4p

Hanson is promising dividends totalling 10.4p for the current year to end-September, an increase of more than 20 per cent.

The forecast by Lord Hanson, chairman, at yesterday's annual meeting, comes a month before holders of the £1 billion 10 per cent convertible loan stock can elect to switch to equity shares.

Analysts, who had widely expected an increase to no more than around 9.7p, believe the forecast will persuade all convertible holders to switch, significantly enhancing the balance sheet. Lord Hanson said he expected 1990 to be "another good year."

Bespak up

Bespak pre-tax profits for the period ended October 27 were £1.83 million against £1.61 million on a turnover up from £9.48 million to £11.25 million. The interim rises from 2.25p to 2.6p.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2740.40 (-25.60)
Dow Jones	2740.40 (-25.60)
Nikkei Average	3766.51 (-254.95)
Paris CAC	2888.00 (+45.84)
Amsterdam	118.3 (-0.6)
Frankfurt DAX	1889.63 (-26.31)
Buenos Aires	6549.80 (-15.24)
General	542.8 (-5.3)
Zurich SMI	n/a
London	1936.4 (-20.1)
FT-30	1936.4 (-20.1)
FT-100	2412.6 (-23.7)
FT Gold Mines	322.4 (+8.3)
FT Fixed Interest	92.62 (-0.21)
FT Govt Secs	82.98 (-0.39)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER	432p (+10p)
Miles & Hill	340p (+15p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)
Porter	283p (+12p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	15%
3-month interbank	15% 15 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	14 1/2% 14 1/2%
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.50-7.48%
30-year bonds	100% 100%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£1.6615	\$1.6627
DM2.7921	DM1.6795
FF5.1135	FF5.1135
FF5.1135	FF5.1135
Yen241.08	Yen144.15
Index88.0	Index87.0
SDU 60.730787	SDU 60.730787
ECU 1.36387	SDR1.25082

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$405.85 pm \$409.10
Gold \$409.00-409.50 (\$247.00-247.50)	
New York	Comex \$410.80-411.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) — \$20.80 bid (\$20.20)
Dancers latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank
Bank	Bank

Industrial price pressure on British Gas

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

A call for British Gas to offer more competitive prices for industrial users has been made by Mr James McKinnon, the director general of Ofgas, the regulatory body which controls domestic gas prices.

Mr McKinnon has been a constant critic of the British Gas industrial pricing structure and was responsible for opening the gas market to new suppliers by allowing access to the British Gas national pipeline system.

He gave a clear signal that Ofgas feels the present return earned by

British Gas on some of its contract sales is too high.

Although he has no role in fixing industrial prices — he administers the formula under which domestic prices are fixed each year at a rate linked to the Retail Price Index — his remarks reflect growing concern among large gas users that they are paying higher prices than their European competitors.

Mr McKinnon added that if there has been no significant change in pricing by 1992 when the single European market opens, pressure will rise on Britain's competitive position in Europe.

Mr McKinnon was also in-

strumental in changing the rules which now mean that British Gas can only contract to take a maximum of 90 per cent of the output of any new North Sea gas field.

Previously it insisted on taking 100 per cent, but the change in the law has led to several companies now planning to bring gas from their newest fields through new pipeline projects and sell direct to customers in industry and in the electricity generating business.

There have also been more than 100 applications from companies who want to buy gas direct from North Sea producers and use the existing British Gas network to

transport it to their plants and factories.

Mr McKinnon said yesterday that Britain's ability to compete with its Continental neighbours will be damaged over the next five years if industry continues to have to pay too high a price for its gas supplies.

Mr McKinnon was speaking to the Chemical Industries Association — the industry is the largest industrial user of gas as well as the country's largest exporter.

He said: "It is not appropriate merely to sit back and await the arrival of gas from the Bruce and Beryl fields in 1993 and 1994 to

trigger substantial gas competition, as a way of lowering costs of the fuel."

"Pressure on British industry's competitive position will increase if, by 1992, there has been no significant downward movement in British Gas prices. Currently these are around 25p per therm to larger industrial users with many small businesses paying a considerably higher price."

"Those people who should know about these things tell me the price of gas from the Bruce and Beryl fields is around 14p per therm. Add to that the average carriage cost as computed by Ofgas of 4p per therm

and the cost of gas to an average customer will be below 20p for a firm supply."

"The overhead costs and the profit margin required by the competitor have to be added, but on the basis of the above arithmetic I can see many customers benefiting significantly when gas-to-gas competition begins."

"That is why there has to be an acceleration in the pace at which that competition is introduced."

If a practical solution is not found to bridge the gap, British businessmen will find it hard to understand and even harder to forgive," he added.

Siemens pays £1bn for 51% Nixdorf stake

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Nixdorf, the once high-flying West German computer maker which nosedived into losses in 1988, has sold control to Siemens, the electronics group, for an estimated £1 billion.

The last big Siemens deal was the acquisition of Plessey, in alliance with Britain's General Electric Company (GEC).

The acquisition of a 51 per cent stake by Siemens in Nixdorf — one of the top six European computer groups — ended a long fight by Nixdorf family interests to stay independent. Nixdorf had tried to improve its flagging fortunes by setting up joint ventures and, eventually, by restructuring and rationalization to reduce job costs.

The deal is subject to clearance by competition authorities, including West Germany's Cartel Office. A spokesman for Siemens, Europe's biggest information technology group, said it intended to raise the stake later.

Neither party to the deal would comment on the acquisition details. Nixdorf is 25 per cent owned by the Nixdorf family, with a further 70 per cent in the hands of two charitable trusts whose boards are controlled by the family and the company's management.

Nixdorf had a pre-tax loss in 1988 on normal operations of DM60 million (£2.14 million), compared with a record profit of DM331 million the year before.

There have been suggestions that 1989 operating

losses could reach DM1 billion. Yet Nixdorf had been founded in 1952 on the technical brilliance of Herr Heinz Nixdorf. The company invented the world's first electronic desk-top calculator with printer.

Nixdorf troubles led to the resignation last November of Herr Klaus Luft as chief executive. He had been with the company 20 years and had been picked by Herr Nixdorf as his successor. Herr Luft had been forced to concede that fierce competition was wrecking his profit forecasts.

When Herr Luft took over the helm, he said he wanted to double profits and treble sales by 1991. The downturn in Nixdorf's business seemed to take the Luft team by surprise. When all other major computer makers were cutting back on their workforces, Nixdorf added another 6,000 to its payroll, leaving it with rocketing costs in a tougher market.

Nixdorf announced last year that 1,600 of its 31,000-strong workforce would have to go, but this proved too little, too late. In the first nine months of last year, the company ran up losses of nearly DM500 million but they would have been much higher if the company had not sold off property.

Herr Horst Nasko, Herr Luft's successor, began looking for outside shareholders to save the company although, until now, he had favoured minority stakes.

The data and information systems of Siemens, with an

annual divisional turnover of about DM6.5 billion, will be merged with the Nixdorf interests to form Siemens-Nixdorf Information Systems.

Siemens, unlike some big power generating and electrical companies, has persevered with mainstream computing as well as semi-conductors. It operates in large and medium-size computer ranges.

Comparatively little overlap in products is claimed with Nixdorf, which has concentrated on more flexible installations, especially data systems for banking, building societies and retailer point-of-sale equipment.

Nixdorf has an annual turnover of about DM5.4 billion. This, and the prospects for the joint venture as the single European market opens up and Siemens' muscle gives Nixdorf the extra financial dimension it has lacked, has led to speculation that Siemens may be paying well over £1 billion for the stake.

But some analysts argue that Nixdorf's problems are such that the price tag could be lower than that.

Deutsche Bank, Nixdorf's house bank which brought it to market five years ago, had been looking for a "German" solution to the company's problems. Mannesmann, the engineering company with data processing interests, had been in the running as well as Siemens.

Restructuring of the Nixdorf interests to achieve more efficiency and reduce losses will continue.

First Technology motors to £3.05m



First Technology, the car safety and design group being built up by Dr Fred Westlake, above, reports interim profits 59 per cent higher at £3.05 million. Sales rose 70 per cent to £20.6 million, but shares issued to pay for acquisitions and in its £14.7 million September 1988 cash call left earnings only 11 per cent up at 13.2p. The interim rises a fifth to 3p. *Tempus*, page 22

ADT bids £105m for Britannia

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

ADT, Mr Michael Ashcroft's cleaning and financial services group, which is based in Bermuda, has launched a £105 million bid for Britannia Security Group, the security and data storage group.

The terms are being recommended by the board of Britannia who floated the company on the Unlisted Securities Market in 1984 with a price tag of just £5.3 million, and who last year saw it valued at about £170 million, before the crippling rise in interest rates took its toll on profits and the share price.

The deal will lift ADT only to second place in the British league table, since 80 per cent

of its security systems business is in North America, but provides it with a powerful platform for expansion in Europe.

The bid comes as little surprise given both the recent downturn in the fortunes of Britannia and world leader ADT's limited representation on this side of the Atlantic.

Mr Ashcroft, who over the past three years has concentrated his acquisition programme in North America, says the security markets in which both companies operate are "fast growing" and that Britannia will "enhance ADT's position in Europe."

Under the terms of the ADT

bid, Britannia shareholders are being offered 69 ADT shares for every 100 Britannia.

At last night's prices — ADT closed 6.5p lower at 194.5p — they value each Britannia at 134p, or less than 12 times the forecast earnings for 1989-90.

Britannia shares closed 24p higher at 133p.

Britannia's directors and their associates are accepting the offer from ADT on behalf of their total of 2 million shares.

These acceptances, together with the 535,000 shares already owned, gives ADT control of 3.4 per cent of Britannia.

Eurotunnel to confirm deal on financing

Eurotunnel will today confirm details of an agreement with its bankers to release more cash to keep the project going until long-term financing plans are finalized.

The 208 banks are expected to make between £250 million and £400 million available. Eurotunnel expects to raise about £1.2 billion, including a £350 million rights, by May.

The agreement follows prolonged argument between Eurotunnel and Transmanche Link, the Anglo-French construction consortium, over final cost, expected to be about £7.3 billion, against the initial £5 billion.

Comment, page 23

Plan for paperless share deals agreed

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The International Stock Exchange, banks and listed companies have finally agreed in principle on a plan to introduce a revolutionary paperless settlement system for share deals and to abolish the fortnightly stock market account.

Mr Peter Rawlins, new chief executive of the ISE, said: "After a debate over many years, there is a grave danger of agreement breaking out all over to give London proper settlement arrangements that are cost-effective and as risk-free as possible."

The new settlement system will be based on the ISE's Taurus computer system, but will be handled by a new independent clearing house

'King of the proxy battles' steps down

By Martin Waller

Mr Donald Carter, the Wall Street "king of the proxy battles," has quit abruptly as chief executive of The Carter Organisation, the business he sold to VPI Group in Britain for \$76 million (£45.7 million) ahead of the 1987 crash.

Meltdown Monday and its consequences meant the virtual death of the US mergers and acquisitions market from which Carter drew his strength.

It contributed heavily to a disastrous set of figures from VPI Group, the public relations consultancy better known as Valin Pollen, for the year to end-September.

Pre-tax profits crashed from £14.1 million to £6.5 million, well below City expectations, sending the shares tumbling

13p to 59p. The dividend was slashed, a final payment of just 0.5p making a total for the year down from 3.5p to 1.6p.

Mr Angus Maitland, who took over from Mr Reg Valin, the founder, as chairman in November, admitted that first-half performance had been "pretty dismal."

Mr Maitland refused to say if Mr Carter had been sacked.

But he commented: "I'm not happy about the performance of the Carter Organisation. Mr Carter has been chief executive and responsible for the performance of that company."

Mr Carter will continue as chairman of the US business in a non-executive capacity.

Tempus, page 22

French advertising group to take 29.9% stake

Gulliver quits chair at Broad Street

By Martin Waller

Mr James Gulliver, former chairman of the Argyl Group supermarket chain and embattled head of Lowndes Queensway, the furniture business, has quit as chairman of Broad Street Group, the public relations company he joined in 1987.

His departure comes as a result of the arrival of BDDP, the French advertising concern, as a 29.9 per cent shareholder in Broad Street, which announced a bid approach in November.

Mr Gulliver will also see his 10 per cent stake in the company whittled down to half that or less as part of a complex tender offer by BDDP. The French have bought 6.5 per cent of the company from Mr Gulliver and two other directors and launched a tender offer at 42.5p a share for enough to bring their holding to 29.9 per cent.

The three directors and a fourth have

agreed to sell sufficient shares in Broad Street to satisfy the offer, if it is cashed by other shareholders. The French owned other companies with a share price of 35p, up 1p, for Broad Street last night.

Shareholders accepting will be entitled to receive the interim dividend for the current year, payable on February 12.

BDDP made an unsuccessful offer last year for Boose Massimi Pollitt, the British advertising agency, losing to a higher offer from Omnicom Group of the US. It aims to build an international public relations business using the Broad Street name. The French will have two seats on the board, and a new non-executive chairman is being sought.

When Mr Gulliver bought into the company in December 1987 he promised to build it into an important international communications group with the support of financial backing running into "hundreds of million pounds." But the

ensuing two years were not kind to the Broad Street share price.

Mr Michael Preston, director of group development at Broad Street, denied Mr Gulliver had arrived as a rescuer. "We didn't need a rescuer when Jimmy came in. We had already done the work internally. We needed someone to get us through what we knew would be a period of adverse publicity."

He said Mr Gulliver had made "no material contribution" to Broad Street's results for the financial year starting April 1 1988, which showed something of an upturn in its fortunes, but had managed to lock in senior management and had played a "very valuable role."

Mr Gulliver described his contribution as providing "a layer of good professional management." He said Broad Street before he came had difficulty translating strong fee income into profits on the bottom line.

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TEMPUS

Baptism of fire for VPI's new boy

The fate of VPI Group might serve to confirm two prejudices: the dangers inherent in acquiring US "people" businesses and of changing a well-known name to a set of anonymous initials.

It is hard not to feel sorry for Mr Angus Maitland, the new chairman and chief executive, whose first set of figures featured a profits collapse from £14.1 million to just £6.5 million in the year to end-September. As he was explaining this to his City critics the share price was dropping another 13p to 59p, compared with 270p before the acquisition of the Carter Organisation in June 1987 and 138p ahead of the first intimations of bad news from the US with the interim in June.

The Carter story from New York reads like something out of Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. The mergers and acquisitions whizz-kid Don Carter sells his business to VPI for \$76 million on the crest of the Wall Street wave, the market collapses, the New York state authorities launch a tax investigation and yesterday he loses his executive post, although this has no connection with the tax investigation.

But the real sufferers have been VPI's shareholders, as the group became yet another agency to go out on a limb. Carter, after an excellent first year in the fold, probably contributed about £3.8 mil-

lion to last year's profits, after a £500,000 increase in provisions because of the New York investigation.

But most of these earnings came in the first half, the company slipping into losses during September and few analysts looking for much more than break-even this year. The core British consultancies performed well, boosting profits by 39 per cent, but there were problems at research and productions services.

A worst-case scenario suggests just £3 million pre-tax this year. Any real improvement on this, meanwhile, relies heavily on an upswing in the Wall Street mergers and acquisitions market which looks unlikely at this stage. The shares are therefore probably selling on a multiple of 13 times, with a prospective dividend yield of 2.7 per cent. Any rescuer is unlikely to be tempted in at this price. Best avoided.

Bespak

Increasingly tough safety conditions associated with pharmaceutical products, coupled with intense proving of new specialist equipment, cost Bespak at least one point on margins in the six months ended October 27.

The growth in pre-tax profits was only from £1.61 million to £1.83 million on sales that rose by 19 per cent to



Facing City critics: Angus Maitland of VPI yesterday

£11.25 million. So, whereas £4.5 million had been expected for the full year, sights have been lowered to £4 million.

None the less, the pace of profits growth should resume next year as the benefits of increased research and development expenditure come through and as the product and geographical base is expanded further.

Bespak's more satisfactory supply agreement with Glaxo — which is already responsible for nearly 50 per cent of its business — and further penetration in the US suggest that Bespak could be looking at pre-tax profits of £5.5 million in 1991.

The US/Britain manufacturing and sales split is now 25-75 and, although the really exciting opportunities lie across the Atlantic, more ground work is needed before any significant change in the geographical mix becomes

evident.

Bespak looks well placed to develop a drug for the treatment of glaucoma and the problems associated could soon be fully overcome.

The interim dividend rises from 2.25p to 2.6p, payable on February 23, and bearing in mind R&D spending, a total dividend of 6p should be possible.

At 342p, the shares trade on 17.4 times prospective earnings and are well up with events. However, they can still be usefully retained in a portfolio which is structured for the medium term.

First

Technology

First Technology is one of the more interesting of the smaller stocks to survive the shake-out that rocked the electricals sector in the mid-eighties.

It is unusual because it is a hybrid. One the one hand, it resembles the sort of one-product company which tended to come spectacularly unstuck at that time. But it also shares some of the features of the financially-driven mini-conglomerates which do not care what sort of business they are in as long as the numbers stack up. First's key product is an inertia switch used to cut out a car's fuel supply in the event of a crash. These were unknown a

decade ago, but their use has risen dramatically with the spread of fuel-injection systems which, in turn, have become popular to offset the loss of power when emission control equipment is fitted.

Ford fits all its cars in the US with this device, which automatically gives First a 25 per cent share of the market.

But the company has used this base to buy its way into quite different sorts of activity in the automotive field. Two acquisitions have given it 98 per cent of the world market for crash dummies and it also has interests in car design, computer fire detection and aircraft fire extinguishers.

These are all rapidly-growing areas, but the company is a minnow by comparison with its customers, the big car makers. Dr Fred Westlake, First's chairman, recognizes that further acquisitions will be needed to get up to size quickly.

Profits rose by three-fifths to £3.05 million in the first half, but earnings were only 11 per cent ahead at 13.2p because of the £14.7 million rights issue at the end of 1988.

Analysts expect profits of £7.5 million in the full year and a similar rise in earnings to 32.5p, well below the 25 per cent annual average of the past five years. That would leave the shares, at 500p, on a prospective p/e ratio of 15, a reflection of the growing interest in automotive safety.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Circa Leisure taken over by Citygrove

Citygrove, the property developer best known for its out-of-town retail developments, is buying Circa Leisure, an operator of leisure and fitness centres, for £2.69 million, the majority in the form of deferred consideration. It is paying £390,000 initially for 75 per cent of the group and another £2 million dependent on profits, after tax, of £1.57 million by November, 1995.

Citygrove has a four-year option on a further 20 per cent of Circa for £300,000 cash, the balance of the company staying with the management. Circa has its roots in one of the first management buyouts of a local authority's leisure facility, in Kent, in 1988. It has expanded since to manage other local council leisure departments and expects to pick up further work following the recent requirement for compulsory competitive tendering.

No referral for Thames

The proposed purchase by Thames Television of Reeves Communications Corporation, the New York-based television production company, is not to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In December, Thames Television said that it planned to buy Reeves Communications Corporation for nearly \$90 million (£54.1 million).

Profit reverse at AG Barr

AG Barr, the Glasgow soft drinks group, saw its pre-tax profits slip by £383,000 to £2.94 million in the year to October 28 after reorganisation at two of its Midlands factories disrupted production. Sales improved by £15.4 million to £88.5 million. A final dividend of 9.75p makes an unchanged total of 13p on earnings per share of 32.2p (37.7p).

Cowan falls £112,000

Cowan de Groot, the kitchen hardware and toy distributor, has suffered a £112,000 drop in pre-tax profits to £1.04 million for its half-year to October. Mr Jonathan Samuels, chairman, blamed slumping consumer spending for the profits setback. Group turnover, in a period when the D Dekker outdoor sportswear business was disposed of, fell by 9 per cent to £17.9 million.

The company is to extend its hardware interests in a £1.06 million acquisition of Harper Lee, an independent London wholesaler which made profits of £125,000 in its last trading year to February. There is an unchanged interim dividend of 1.25p on 4 per cent lower earnings per share of 2.4p.

Sidney Banks up to £1.2m

Sidney Banks, the Bedfordshire grain and agricultural merchant, lifted pre-tax profits by 12.8 per cent to £1.23 million in the half-year to end October, on turnover up 20.3 per cent at £74.1 million. Earnings per share rose from 10.6p to 11.6p, and the interim dividend is improved from 2.125p to 2.5p. The shares strengthened by 8p to 163p.

Alexanders edges ahead

Alexanders Holdings, Scotland's largest Ford dealer, increased pre-tax profits by 4 per cent to £1.81 million in the year to end-September. The dividend remains at 1p. Sales fell by 5 per cent to £80.3 million, due to problems obtaining cars to supply the contract rental division. The company managed to increase profits by opening a new dealership.

GEI negotiates £5.8m purchases abroad

GEI International, the packaging machinery and engineering products group, has acquired the Belgian company, Ateliers Ed Courtoy BVBA and the Swiss group, Oskar Krieger Maschinen und Metallbau for a total of £5.8 million. Both design and make processing machines for the pharmaceutical industry, while Courtoy also has a strong customer base in the chemical and food processing industry. Courtoy, acquired for BF265 million (£4.6 million), made pre-tax profits of BF38 million in 1988, on sales of BF247 million. Krieger, acquired for SFR2.9 million (£1.2 million), made pre-tax profits of about SFR262,000 in 1988 on turnover of SFR3.1 million.

Maxwell's Fifth Wave loses bid for Monotype

By Melinda Wittstock

Fifth Wave Technology, owned by Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, has admitted defeat in the transatlantic battle for Monotype Corporation, two weeks after the loss-making British typesetting equipment maker accepted a marginally higher offer from King Black & Associates, the US investment group.

Mr Maxwell, who holds 7.38 per cent of Monotype

through Headington Investments, bought his stake immediately after the agreed KBA deal was announced in November, sending the shares up 40 per cent. Yesterday they fell 2p to 158p.

The KBA deal values Monotype, now to leave the stock market, at £34.2 million, topping by 1p a share the 160p unsolicited bid made by Mr Maxwell, its biggest customer.

Minding your language and picking a pension

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Alexander to sell loss-maker

By Philip Pangalos

Walter Alexander, the Scottish industrial holdings group with interests which range from coachbuilding to home products, is selling its loss-making Slumberland quilts subsidiary to Rabatz for £1.75 million.

Last October, the company, which had received a number of bid approaches, said that it was looking for buyers for part or all of the businesses. At the time the shares soared from 115p to 146p.

The company said the sale will benefit it by the removal of a loss-making operation as well as provide the opportunity to reduce borrowings.

It would also make Walter Alexander more attractive to the parties with whom discussions are at an advanced stage.

A further announcement in respect of these discussions is expected very shortly. Alexander's shares lost 12p to 121p yesterday.

Limit passes for details on Bond deal financing

Scepticism increases as Reynolds misses deadline

From Martin Winn, Sydney

Scepticism about Mr Jeff Reynolds' rescue bid for Mr Alan Bond's Bond Corporation mounted yesterday when the Texas businessman missed his own deadline for providing details of how the deal will be financed.

Mr Reynolds, speaking from Dallas, said he hoped to announce a new package overnight in the US. "I'm very disappointed that we haven't got anything today, but I'm confident that it is going to be worked out."

He said he had talked on Tuesday with Mr Mark Barnaba, Mr Bond's executive assistant, about plans to fly to Australia next week to meet officials of the Bond group.

But Mr Barnaba yesterday denied having had discussions with Mr Reynolds in the last five or six days and said no



Jeff Reynolds: confident

meetings would be scheduled until the mysterious Texan had "come up with some evidence" of his financing capability.

Mr Reynolds has claimed that Shearson Lehman Hutton, the US investment bank, is advising him on proposals to inject Aus\$250 million (£120 million) of equity into

the stricken Bond Corp and refinance the bulk of its Aus\$6 billion borrowings. But Shearson Lehman said yesterday it had no firm arrangements with Mr Reynolds.

EIE International, the Japanese property group, also said yesterday it would act as "custodian" for Bond Corp's 50 per cent interest in the private Bond University in Queensland.

EIE said Bond Corp's difficulties were placing "unbearable strains" on the troubled university and pledged to change the institution's name.

In Boston, meanwhile, the Bank of Boston Corp's First National Bank of Boston said it has received payment on a sight draft submitted to National Australian Bank Ltd that would permit payment on Bond Brewing Holdings Ltd's zero coupon notes due January 22, 1991.

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PA

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Profit reverse
at AG Barr
AG Barr, the Glasgow soft...
drinks group, saw its pre-tax...
profits slip by £383,000 to...
£2.94 million in the year to...
October 28 after recognition...
tion at two of its Midlands...
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£15.4 million to £80.5 m...
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9.75p makes an unchanged...
total of 13p on earnings per...
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consumer spending for the...
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s hardware interests in a £1...
Lee, an independent London...
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unchanged interim dividend...
ings per share of 34p.
Alexanders
edges ahead
Alexanders Holdings, Scot...
land's largest food retailer...
increased pre-tax profits by...
4 per cent to £1.81 million in...
the year to end-September...
The dividend remains at 1p...
Sales fell by 5 per cent to...
£80.5 million, due to prob...
lems obtaining cars to supply...
the contract rental division...
The company managed to...
increase profits by opening...
new dealerships.
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Swiss group, Oskar Krieger...
a total of £5.8 million. Both...
machines for the pharmaceutical...
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North West and Wessex 'to meet profit forecasts'

By Graham Seearjeant

North West Water and Wessex Water shrugged off the effects of drought, despite fears of potential shortages in the South and East of England.

Wessex draws 80 per cent of its supplies from underground sources, which have been most affected by prolonged low rainfall. But Mr Colin Skellett, managing director, said, as in 1989, there would be no need for water restrictions this year in the area.

He said Wessex was reinforcing its network by re-arranging investment plans to bring forward more than 50 miles of new mains in case of another dry winter.

Mr Dennis Grove, chairman of North West - which draws its main supplies from Lake District reservoirs - said the absence of restrictions last year "says a lot for the increasing robustness of our distribution systems."

Both companies, in line with other privatized water groups, said they were confident of meeting prospectus pre-tax profit forecasts - £70 million for North West and £25 million for Wessex - on the basis of their results for the six months to end-September.

North West reported interim pre-tax profits of £15.1 million, before £4.3 million of extraordinary privatization costs. Pre forma earnings, adjusted for debt write-offs and cash injections linked to privatization, were £81.3 million, or 22.8p per share.

Wessex recorded pre-tax profits of £8.8 million before extraordinary privatization costs of £3.3 million. Pre forma earnings were £27.6 million, or 26.9p per share.

Wessex said it expected to have talks soon with Compagnie Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French group that bought a 6 per cent stake. It has welcomed Lyonnaise as a big shareholder. But Mr Skellett suggested Wessex might not be keen to bid for local authority waste disposal contracts. "Margins seem to be very tight," he said.

Wessex is a rumoured target of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, which owns 29.9 per cent of the capital of Bristol Waterworks, the private water company that supplies about 40 per cent of the water in the Wessex sewerage area. Wessex, Bristol, COE and Lyonnaise, which owns 13 per cent of Bristol, are all thought to have considered the possibility of closer links.

Mr Grove said North West had no plans for joint ventures with outside engineering consultancies because it had already built up the largest engineering resources of any former authority.

North West shares fell 4p to 153p and Wessex 4.5p to 164.5p as water shares retreated on the stock market.

Markheath Securities set to raise £45m

By Jeremy Andrews

Markheath Securities, the property trader with a portfolio of developments in north and west London, is to raise £45 million via a placing and open offer which will double its issued capital.

The cash raising is being supported by Adsteam UK, the British vehicle of Mr John Spalvins, the Australian entrepreneur, which holds almost 50 per cent of the equity, and the balance has been conditionally placed with Howard Smith, a listed Australian industrial company linked to Adsteam.

The announcement immediately prompted speculation that Markheath is about to launch a bid for one of the two quoted companies in which it has disclosable stakes.

Shares in Frogmore Estates rose 7p to 459p at one stage, before sinking back to 453p, and Camford Engineering finished 10p higher at 253p.

However, Mr Paul Bobroff, Markheath's managing director, said that it would not be right for him to fuel speculation one way or another about his intentions.

Existing holders will be offered the balance on a one for one basis at 75p, compared with a market price of 82p. Markheath's directors, who hold a combined 14 per cent stake, intend to take up their entitlements "as far as individual financial circumstances permit."

The news accompanied Markheath's results for the half-year to September which showed pre-tax profits 14 per cent up at £4.31 million on turnover up 12 per cent lower at £14 million. Earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 4.76p and an interim dividend of 2p is proposed.

The proceeds will substantially cut Markheath's balance sheet gearing. At present its debts of £70 million stand in excess of net assets at £55 million.

But by the year-end in March, Mr Bobroff expects net debt to be only one-fifth of shareholders' funds.

Markheath's main project is the £50 million Fountains Office Park at Brentford in Middlesex, being developed jointly with Adsteam.

Analysts see the move as the first of a series of expected rights issues by the developer/trader class of property companies, which need funds to finance the developments which they are finding increasingly difficult to sell.

COMMENT Sid sceptical over switch to paperless trading

Private investors have understandably become cynical about exciting new developments on the Stock Exchange, especially technical ones. Big Bang, computerized dealing and one-stop financial institutions all seemed designed to do away with the Exchange's forbiddingly exclusive image and service the recovery and explosion in private share ownership brought by the Government's privatization programme. Yet, in practice, most of the changes seem to have worked the other way, converting the small man into an expensive nuisance of owning and trading in uneconomically small parcels of shares.

There are important exceptions, such as the emergence of execution-only brokerage services. But the brave new world of dealing cheaply and simply on the basis of known prices, from a bank branch if not from the home, has not materialized in anything like the way it was hyped. Apart from privatizations, most small investors may feel they have been pushed more in the direction of collective investment. Even the Government's initiative of personal equity plans, aimed at bringing small investors closer to individual companies, has worked the opposite way because of administrative costs.

The Exchange's original plans for paperless share transactions, which would have abolished meaningful share registers as well as share certificates, were geared to global institutional securities trading. The compromise plans agreed after complaints by companies are a big improvement. Investors will still not have a legal document marking their shareholding. But they can at least have a piece of paper and a choice between holding a share account through a broker or bank (at as yet unknown cost) or through an account run by the company at its own expense.

Companies will have rapid access to the commercially held share accounts - again the cost is not yet known. But public access to a share register is likely to be much more restricted or costly, so it may be much harder for shareholders to promote democracy by contacting each other.

The Stock Exchange dealing account is an anachronism in terms of international institutional trading, though it has been a boon to small private speculators who can buy and sell cheaply within the period and may have oiled the market for shares in smaller companies. Eventual movement to a three day settlement - too short a time to post and clear a cheque - will again push small investors into maintaining accounts with banks or brokers prepared to cater for them.

In theory, there should be big compensating benefits to having an accessible computerized share account on the lines of a bank account. Share dealing could become a more routine affair. It should also be cheaper if the disproportionate expense of shuffling paper for small deals is removed.

Most small investors, sadly, will believe it only when they see it. A new opinion survey by Burson-Marsteller and the international federation of stock exchanges finds that most companies and fund managers (and even a large minority of Exchange officials) think the stock exchanges do not actively encourage the small investor. That is hardly surprising. Companies and the Government want more loyal small shareholders: the securities industry is interested in trading volume, which is unlikely to be supplied by the patronised Aunt Agatha or the dismissively despised Sid.

Arbuthnot poised for sale in US

Arbuthnot Latham, the British merchant banking subsidiary of NZL, is set to be sold to a US bank for £50 million to £60 million.

NZL, the New Zealand insurance group owned by General Accident, says it is still talking to a number of buyers, and has signed confidentiality agreements with them. But negotiations have now focused on one American institution.

Wassall offer extended

Wassall has declared its £51 million cash and share bid for Metal Closures final and has extended it to January 24.

Wassall's terms are now worth 200p per share, against its cash alternative of 160p. Wassall bought in the market at 200p but added less than 2 per cent to the 30.6 per cent for which it already had acceptances.

Grendon delay

The stockholders meeting at Grendon Trust, an offshoot of Charterhouse the merchant bank, has been adjourned to February 7 to allow more time for talks with dissenting stockholders who oppose the proposed scheme to buy back an 11 per cent stock issue at 18p in the pound.

LSE study

A Centre for Economic Performance is to be set up at the London School of Economics. Based on the Centre for Labour Economics it will explore why some firms operate better than others.

Bid approach for Horne



By Sam Parkhouse

Shares in Robert Horne shot up 100p to 350p when the group disclosed a takeover approach for the Horne family controlling interest which may lead to a full bid for the whole company.

The strong market suspected a Dutch takeover bid was in the offing and slapped a further £22 million on to the value of the paper merchant, chaired by Sir Kenneth Berrill, valuing the company at more than £92 million.

On the Amsterdam bourse yesterday it was widely felt by traders that the bid move had been made by Beuhrmann Tetterode.

The move coincided with the announcement of Robert Horne's results for the year to September, with pre-tax profits slipping to £15.01 million.

3i, the Venture capital group, is the only other major shareholder in Robert Horne, with an 8 per cent stake, and a spokesman said it was likely to follow its normal policy of waiting for a lead from the company management before making a move in a possible bid situation.

Sir Kenneth Berrill, commenting on the company's performance, said the core paper merchanting business had shown satisfactory progress with a 10.2 per cent rise in profits.

The overall profits standstill was largely due to the costly diversification into office products.

Group turnover increased from £187.5 million to £215 million, helped by a 6 per cent rise in paper prices.

The final dividend is 6p, making 8.5p (8.25p), on earnings per share of 29.3p (30.1p).

BAe continues hard line over strikers

By Tim Jones and Harvey Elliott

British Aerospace continues to insist it will not negotiate with striking employees until they return to work, as thousands of workers on the Continent involved in the European Airbus project face being laid off because of the dispute over a shorter working week.

The response came as Mr Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, predicted the dispute could spread throughout the company's plants.

The strike, at the company's Chester plant, where wings for Airbus models are made, is continuing after BAe's refusal to negotiate a two-hour reduction in the working week to 37 hours, in return for changes in working practices, until the men return to work.

M Jean Pierson, Airbus managing director, has given warning that unless the strike is resolved production at the final assembly plant in Toulouse, France, would halt next week.

He said: "If we were a public limited company, I suspect we would ask ourselves if we should keep all wing production at one plant. If you have a turbulent plant in a multinational group, you usually consider shutting it down."

The strike, which is also affecting the company's plants at Preston and Kingston-upon-Thames could not have come at a worse time for Airbus and damages its hopes of becoming a major and serious competitor to Boeing.

All 87 airlines with Airbus on order have been warned that they could face long delays in the planned delivery of new aircraft because of the strike.

Leading article, page 11

Uphill work for CSV

Hammering another nail into Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers' coffin, Hill Samuel, the blue-chip British merchant bank now owned by the TSB, has deleted CSV from the 1990 list of broking houses that its fund managers are permitted to use - because of CSV's uncertain future. Hill Samuel, which has about £16 billion of funds under its management, ranks among the top 10 fund management groups in Britain. It is understood to have delivered its damaging blow on Tuesday, adding, by way of a comfort to the firm's senior managers, that it was "nothing personal." Such lists are kept by most of the big fund management groups, are up-dated annually, and their employees are not allowed to deviate from them. "It is definitely a disaster for Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers," said one seasoned market source when he heard the news. "It's a bit like going from Triple A to Double A in terms of credit rating." Meanwhile sources within CSV reveal that its share of the UK equity market has "collapsed." Reputed to be approaching 6 per cent in early 1989 - James Capel leads the field with about 6 per cent - the firm was struggling to hold on to 2 per cent last autumn. That figure has now halved to about 1 per cent.

Just when you thought yuppies were a dying breed... they are making a comeback. But this time around they have gone green - and are being called Gruppies.

Geoff steals the show

Graeme Seabrook, chief executive of Kwik Save, has become the first food retailer to win County NatWest Wood-Mac's Retailer of the Year award. But it was runner-up Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, who was in the limelight at the awards ceremony in the City of London Club last night. For, according to County's retail analyst John Richards, when the votes from fund managers, analysts and fellow retailers first started to roll in, "Mulcahy was not anywhere. But because of the high profile he has had throughout the Dixons bid, it ended up being a very close finish. It was perhaps a bit over-the-top though to make a bid for Dixons just to win our award," Richards jests. In the end Seabrook got 14 per cent of the vote and Mulcahy 12.9 per cent. And Stanley Kalms of Dixons did not come anywhere. "He did come seventh or eighth once, back in 1985," said Richards. Seabrook was presented with a framed chart of Kwik Save's share price performance and a special award was given to Mulcahy, in recognition of the many occasions in which he has come second or third. "Kingfisher has been a quiet success story and all credit to Geoff Mulcahy for it," Richards said. His award? A Dixons' own-brand - Saisho - personal stereo. "It was beyond our powers to buy him the company but we could manage a product," Richards quips.

Carol Leonard

A personal message to: Mr J. R. Johnson, Chairman, Johnson's Wax;
Dr R. N. Gunn, Chairman, The Boots Company;
and Mr John O'Keefe, Chairman, Procter & Gamble...

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The GREEN SHOW
20-24 June 1990
National Exhibition Centre
Birmingham

Fall in second-hand car prices threatens dealers

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hand can
s dealers
respondent
to the second-hand trade where
little as 12 weeks with only
few thousand miles on the
clock, leading to severely
pressed prices.
Mr Hill said: "There are
even G-registrations on
over-supply as a result of
manufacturers needing to
move metal over the last
years.
"The market cannot take
before prices can even
again."
Some dealers have been
making "distress" sales of
some late year models, but
cars off their forecourt, but
the industry will be unable to
maintain that situation through
the year, raising fears it
will.
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n spare parts deal
s ends Ford
ght action
ael Binyon, Brussels
rights and the need to open
markets to competition.
The case dates from 1984
when independent panel
manufacturers applied to
Brussels to ban the
attempt to maintain a monopoly
on spare parts.
The issue was a victory
for EC competition at
Brussels has, for the past
years, required car dealers
open up the market by selling
and selling spare parts
from independent manufacturers,
as long as they were
maintaining quality.
But the Commission
agreed that Ford and
manufacturers had their
interests to protect. During
a five-year investigation, it
co-operated closely with
the Commission in looking
at the issue.
The British Copyright
Design and Patents Act
was one of the barriers
to competition, but by allowing
Ford to enforce a ban on
dealer designs for up to 10
years, it effectively gave a
dominant panel makers
operating in the market in
short and medium-term.

Jeyes pays £1.3m for Kleenoff business

By Philip Pangalos

Jeyes Group, the USM manufacturer of household cleaning and health products, including Parazone and Wet Ones, has acquired the Kleenoff business from Bale & Church for about £1.3 million in cash.

This is the first purchase for Jeyes since last month's £7.1 million rights issue, which had a 97 per cent take-up, to raise funds for acquisitions.

Bale operates from Crawley, Sussex and manufactures household products sold through grocery and hardware outlets, mainly in Britain, under a variety of trade names with the Kleenoff range accounting for about 90 per cent of sales.

Bale made a pre-tax loss of £2,800 in the year to end-June 1989 on a turnover of £1.66 million, with consolidated net assets of £32,000.

Mr Jimmy Moir, Jeyes's managing director, said that the Kleenoff range of products represented a natural extension to Jeyes's range.

He added that a number of significant market opportunities presented themselves as a result of this acquisition, both in terms of distribution gains and new product development.

The shares formed by 5p to 30p on the news.

No crystal-clear answer at Waterford

High labour costs, low output and heavy indebtedness are among problems facing anyone who is thinking of a rescue package for the troubled Irish group — such as Tony O'Reilly of HJ Heinz.

Melinda Wittstock reports

Picking up the shards of shattered hopes at Waterford Glass, the Irish handmade crystal producer, will not be a short or particularly clear-cut process for anyone brave enough to lend a helping hand.

Waterford has never failed to disappoint its shareholders, despite a lifesaving 1986 merger with the Wedgwood china group. Hopes of a quick change of fortune at the group, one of the Republic's largest employers, evaporated long ago as the extent of its problems — high labour costs, low productivity, heavy indebtedness and serious mismanagement — first became clear to the company's despondent investors.

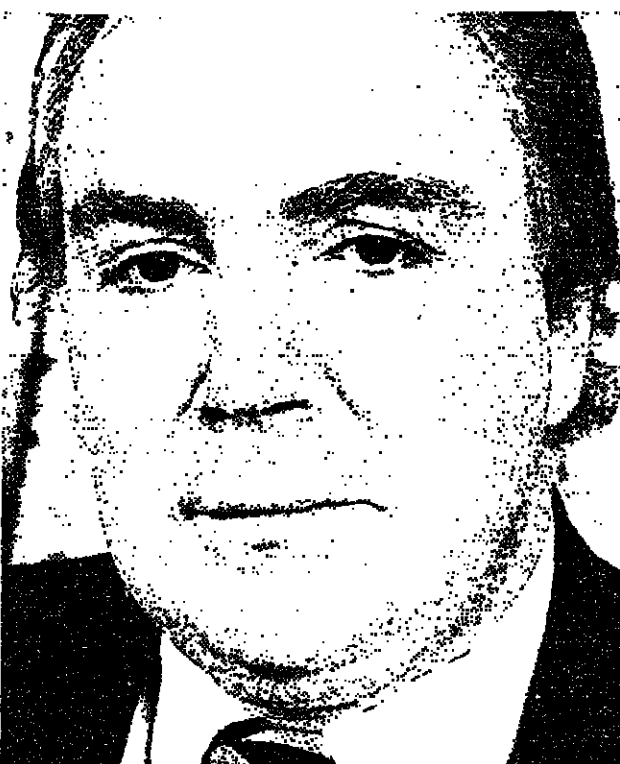
Sources close to Waterford Wedgwood say it will take at least three years to turn it around, even with the active help of Mr Tony O'Reilly, the chairman of HJ Heinz, the US food group whose Irish holding company, Fitzwillton,

has offered Waterford a much-needed £170 million (£66.5 million) capital injection in return for a 29.9 per cent stake.

If Mr O'Reilly comes to the rescue, only after what analysts expect to be lengthy due diligence investigations, the former Irish international rugby winger will be faced with an uphill struggle to exploit the internationally-recognized Waterford brand name.

Waterford Wedgwood, which last month warned its shareholders of a "significant" pre-tax loss for 1989, given staggering interest payments on its £113.5 million debt and an unexpected downturn in US demand, now faces yet another protracted battle with its crystal workers.

On Monday, they dealt the company another shattering blow by unanimously rejecting another management cost-cutting initiative just six months after the imposition of



Tony O'Reilly: keen on both world-famous brand names

a two-year wage freeze and the temporary ending of company pension contributions.

The 2,000-strong staff rejected demands for longer working hours, smaller bonuses and 250 redundancies amongst its contract staff just hours after it emerged that Mr O'Reilly, backed by wealthy US and Canadian investors in Fitzwillton, had begun negotiations to take a stake at under £40p.

Although Waterford has threatened the strong Irish union with job losses should the workers not capitulate, Goodbody James Capel, the Irish broker, said there is little scope for further job cuts. Mr Dick Watson, of Goodbody, said: "In 1987, Waterford cut its staff from 3,000 to 2,000 with a £150 million redundancy package, but the company unexpectedly lost many of its skilled glass blowers and cutters, which it now needs to replace."

It is a very labour-intensive business yet none of the high-level management knows anything about glass technology," said Mr Watson. "Training people and introducing new working practices will take them years." He said Waterford could also choose mechanized production, but at considerable cost and against the will of the powerful union.

But its not just labour and production problems that face Waterford. For a year, there have been reports that the Wedgwood family are fed up with the Waterford record and are keen on regaining independence for the Staffordshire power.

Waterford paid a high price — £250 million — to ensure its survival with the November, 1986, acquisition of Wedgwood, which was then trying to escape a hostile bid from London International Group, the condoms group which owned Royal Worcester at the time.

Mr Watson said Wedgwood, expected to make £23 million pre-tax profit in 1990, is now "disillusioned enough with Waterford that it wants out."

Mr O'Reilly, however, is known to be keen on both world-renowned brand names, believing his marketing expertise will give both lines a new lease on life.

Waterford, which sells as much as 80 per cent of its crystal to US buyers, clearly would benefit from far more aggressive marketing in the US market, where Mr O'Reilly has immense experience.

Analysts believe involvement by an outside investor or a complete takeover of the company is the only hope for beleaguered investors.

The company needs much more in the way of cash to reduce its debt mountain and re-market its china and crystal than its shareholders would be willing, at this point, to tolerate.

Though Mr Howard Kilroy, a former Jefferson Smurfit director who became Waterford chairman after Mr Paddy Hayes was forced to resign early last year, is widely respected for his financial acumen, it is agreed that the company needs outside expertise in both marketing and crystal production.

But observers say it will be some time before Waterford Wedgwood emerges from the thick Irish mist engulfing it — even with the enthusiastic involvement and cash backing of Mr O'Reilly.

Apricot near to deal on software

By Melinda Wittstock

Apricot Computers, Britain's leading independent supplier of computer workstations, is on the look out for a foreign equity partner in America or the Far East to help share in research and development costs and open up new markets in an increasingly competitive climate.

Part of a significant re-organization shifting Apricot's focus away from computer hardware towards software and services, the deal should be completed within two to three months.

Mr Roger Foster, chairman, said Apricot Computers is presently in negotiations with several companies.

Apricot, whose computer software side has grown from revenues of under £10 million to the £80 million level of its hardware division in just a few years, has also launched a new software and services division, ACT.

The original name of the company when it started up 25 years ago, ACT will include the recent acquisitions of TTL, Logsys and Signet as well as Apricot's computer services division.

Apricot Computers emphasized, however, that it has no plans to withdraw from its computer hardware manufacture.

Poor figures force Fairbairn to study its future as plc

By Colin Campbell

Fairbairn, the housebuilder, is considering buying back its shares and going private after being badly hit by depressed market conditions in the six months to end-September.

The value of residential sales was half the same period a year ago, the company reported.

Mr Remo Dipre, chairman, whose family holds 64.5 per cent, is considering making a offer to buy out minority shareholders "at a price reflecting current market conditions."

An announcement will be made "as soon as possible."

Turnover was down from £20.8 million to £16.2 million, pre-tax profit fell 46 per cent to £3.32 million, and the interim dividend has been cut from 1.7p to 1.25p.

The comparative period of the previous year benefited from a rush of residential demand, while in the latest period the company had suffered from higher interest and the effect of higher mortgage rates, said Mr Dipre.

The bank interest charge rose from £571,000 to £1,538 million, topping by £1,000 the interest charge for all of the 12 months to end-March, 1989.

Fairbairn is taking a cautious view of the second half, despite significant rental in-



Dipre: considering buy out

come which is starting to flow through from on commercial developments.

By year-end, Fairbairn expects to have rental income running at an annual rate of more than £3 million with further increases during 1990.

The results shows an extraordinary charge of £571,000 representing a net loss on the sale and valuation of fixed assets.

The difficult trading conditions are likely to continue to influence the group's performance in 1990, and in these circumstances a buy-back offer is being considered.

Fairbairn shares, 78 per cent of which were left with underwriters on flotation in 1985 at an effective issue price of 60p, rose 2p to 92p.

Auditors' reports vary across Europe

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

There are wide national differences between the auditors' reports on accounts of European multinational companies which could undermine their usefulness to investors and other account users, a research study commissioned by the Institute of Chartered Accountants concludes.

A survey of more than 200 European companies, each with a market listing in more than one country, showed there was a high degree of compliance with international standards only in Britain, the Irish Republic, Italy and Spain.

In these countries, the short auditor's report, which typically states whether or not the accounts present a true and

fair view, and on what basis, complied with more than eight of 10 items specified by the International Audit Practice Committee.

But reports on companies based in West Germany complied with less than five on average, in Sweden less than four and in Austria less than two.

The report says harmonization of this basic element in accounts has improved in many European Community countries under the influence of EC directives as well as American-influenced international practice.

The study is part of a project to compare national differences between the accounts of multinational groups.

BHP likely to sell Woodside holding

By Our City Staff

BHP Petroleum, part of Australia's largest and widely diversified BHP group, is considering selling its 40.03 per cent equity stake in quoted Woodside Petroleum, fanning investment interest in Japan and London.

BHP, which should stand to reap several millions from the sale, says it has achieved what it set out to do when it first invested in Woodside Petroleum in 1976, and that it is now "appropriate to review our investment."

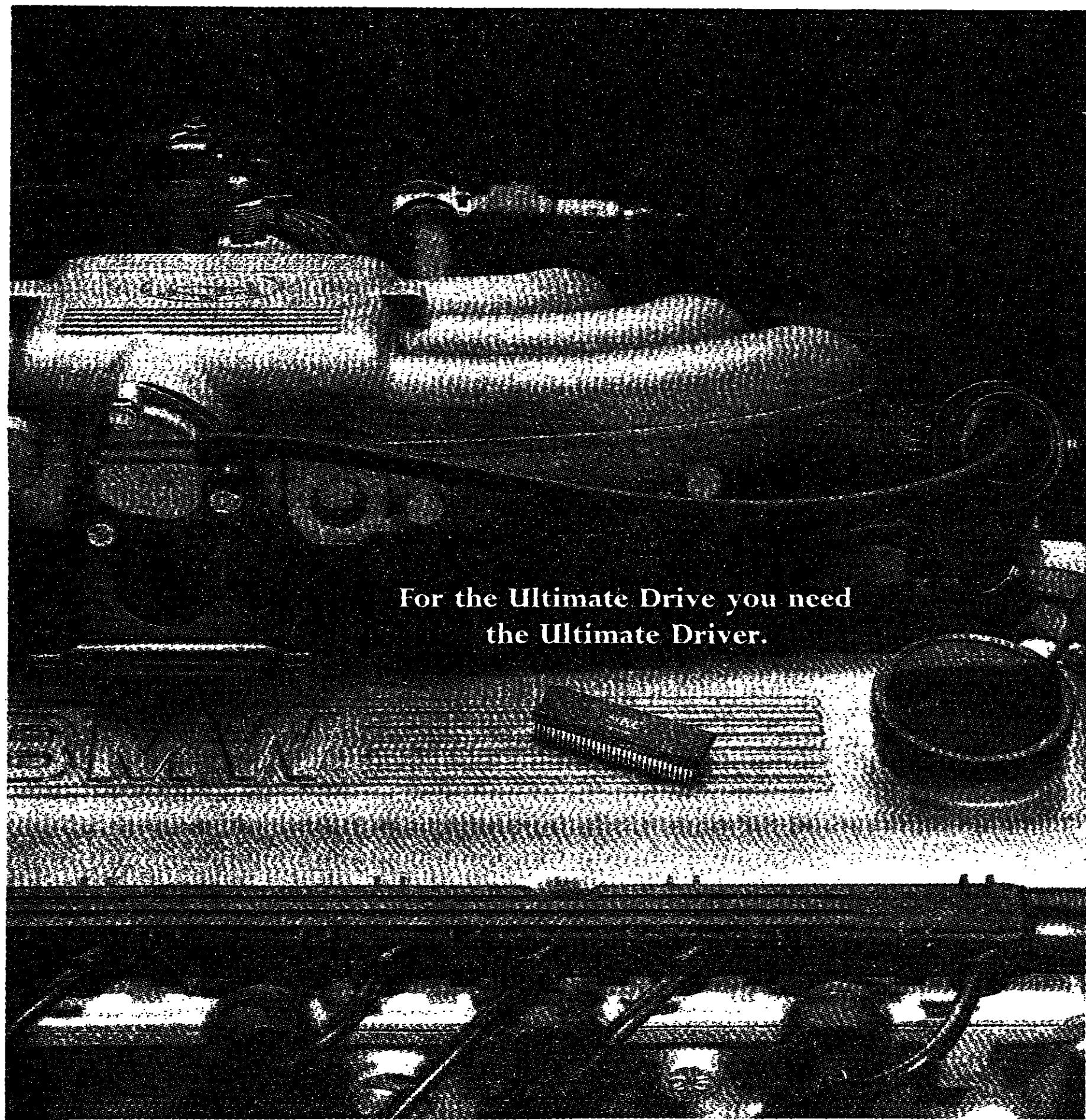
The fellow shareholders in Woodside — operator of the North West Shelf gas project offshore Western Australia — include Shell, with an equal 40.03 per cent shareholding. Other participants in the

project include BP, Chevron, Mitsubishi and Mitsui.

BHP says any decision about its Woodside stake will not affect its direct interest in the North West Shelf project, and emphasizes that it remains "delighted" with Woodside.

It has significant reserves, and acreage in which Woodside interests have substantial exploration potential.

Shell Australia, in reaction to BHP's announcement, said it had been advised by BHP of its intentions but that the development would have no impact on Shell's "complete commitment to the North West Shelf project, to Woodside or to current and future LNG business into Japan."



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carry a three-year warranty. What's more, as you'd expect from a

world name in PC's like NEC, the PowerMate range is fully com-

prehensive. It'll meet all your company's needs, from power to portability. To find out more, set the wheels

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STOCK MARKET

New York unsettles London investors

The bout of New Year blues which has been upsetting investors on Wall Street is now also starting to have a depressing effect on investors on this side of the Atlantic.

News of a 28-point slide in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight meant a sharp mark-down for share prices in London first thing, with investors deciding to take profits as the three-week account begins to draw to a close. The slide continued throughout the day, gathering pace in after-hours trading as the Dow Jones average suffered an opening fall of 10 points.

The FT-SE 100 index closed near its worst level of the day with a fall of 23.7 to 2,412.6. The FT index of 30 shares shed 20.1 at 1,936.4 on a turnover of 449 million shares.

Government securities managed to shrug off early dullness to end 5 1/4 better at the long end in thin trading.

Among leaders, Unilever fell 13p to 691p following claims that it is about to take to the takeover trail. Whispers on the Amsterdam stock market claimed that it was thinking about making a sizeable acquisition in Holland's food manufacturing industry. But the company denied the claims. Last night, it arranged a presentation for US fund managers in New York.

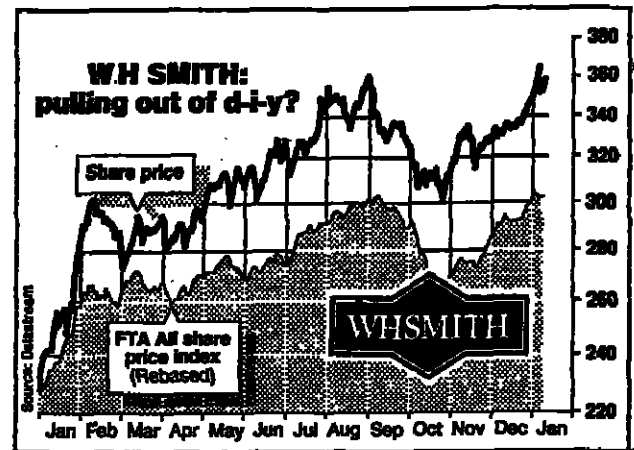
Britannia Security surged 26p to 135p following the agreed bid of £105 million from Mr Michael Ashcroft's ADT, the security and car auction group. ADT is bidding the equivalent of 133p a share for Britannia. The acquisition will make ADT one of the biggest security services groups in this country.

Last year, Britannia reported a fall in pre-tax profits and takeover speculation intensified when ADT emerged with a near 10 per cent holding in the company.

Meanwhile, a rival, Securguard, rose 2p to 260p as the City gave its approval to the £16.9 million (£10.2 million) purchase of Madison Building Services of New York, a building cleaning and maintenance group.

Securguard is making an initial down-payment of \$10.4 million with the remainder payable over the next three years. Last year, Madison made pre-tax profits of \$2.47 million.

The drinks sector ran into profit-taking after Tuesday's strong gains. But Scottish & Newcastle fell 2p to 359p in anticipation of the long-awaited disposal of Elders DXL's 23 per cent holding. It has been ordered by the Government to reduce its holding to under 10 per cent by later this year after its bid



for S&N was blocked by the Monopolies Commission. It has been suggested that Elders would attempt to sell the stake in one lump. Having paid about 400p a share for the breaking run, shares in Miss Anita Roddick's Body Shop continued to encounter sporadic profit-taking, losing 10p to 609p, after 603p. This compares with their all-time high of 647p. In less than six years, the group's market capitalization has soared from £2.3 million to £500 million. It is expected to make taxable profits of £16 million in the current year, but its prospective p/e ratio of 58 has done little to deter investors.

After their recent record-

Elsewhere in stores, selective buying lifted Eam by 3p to 190p and A Goldberg 8p to 108p while Storehouse firmed 2p to 125p. This week's talk of a bid for the troubled retailer seems to be fading.

WH Smith A firmed 7p to 359p - just 7p below its peak - on whispers that it is about to sell its Do-It-All DIY business to Ladbroke which already owns Texas Homecare. Ladbroke fell 6p to 340p.

Hansen hardened 1p to 235p following the annual meeting where Lord Hanson forecast a 20 per cent rise in the total dividend to 10.4p for the year ending next September. The shares have been a firm market since Christmas, attracting renewed support from City institutions.

Robert Horne, the USM paper merchant, kept 95p to 345p on the news that Mr Kenneth Horne, the chairman, had received an approach for his controlling stake in the company. The speculators are talking of a bid for Horne from Buhrmann-Tetterode, the Dutch papermaker.

Bid hopes also lifted Ferranti International, the troubled electronics group, by 2p to 37p on growing hopes that Thomson-CSF, the French electronics group, is about to make its long-

awaited rescue bid. Almost 6 million Ferranti shares changed hands.

STC scored an early lead but closed below its best level with a rise of 1p to 276p. Once again, there have been whispers that the group is on the verge of selling its ICL subsidiary. This time, Siemens, the West German industrial group, was being mentioned as the buyer.

Parkfield Group, which has interests stretching from the manufacture of car chassis through to the Pathe News film library, fell 9p to 497p despite announcing this week that pre-tax profits had more than doubled to £13.86 million during the first six months. Earnings a share rose by almost 80 per cent to 17.7p.

Eurotunnel units fell 15p to 668p and the warrants 2p to 54p as the group continued to attempt to work out terms of a refinancing package for the project.

Metal Closures, the paper and packaging group, rose 6p to 195p as Wassall declared that its £45 million offer was final. Closures' price is still 5p below the 200p offered by Wassall. There was little evidence of the expected raid by Wassall on Closures' shares with only 797,000 traded.

Michael Clark

WALL STREET

Fears for company profits push Dow down by 10 points

New York (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average was 10 points lower at 2,756.00 in early trading and falling shares outnumbered rising ones by five to three.

A late drop in shares on Tuesday and expectations of generally disappointing fourth-quarter company profits weighed down prices, especially blue chips.

However, trading continued to be slow. Many investors stayed out of the market amid expectations of disappointing fourth-quarter results and the market's inability to support attempts at rallies so far this year.

Gold-mining issues gained as bullion prices climbed. Newmont Mining was ahead by 1 1/4 to 49 1/4, ASARCO rose 1 1/4 to 58 1/4, and Homestake Mining was up 1/2 to 20 1/4.

● Tokyo - The Nikkei index lost 254.95 points, or 0.67 per cent, to 37,695.51 after sliding 343.50 on Tuesday. Index-linked buying, mostly in the Nikkei, took prices out of their troughs in the afternoon but they still closed broadly down in thin trading. A slight recovery in the bond market and a lack of new political rumours encouraged buyers.

Mr Setsuo Watanuki, a trader at Toyo Securities, said: "From a price standpoint point, it seems that the Nikkei is reaching a good position."

The correction is not extreme by any means.

The index recovered about half of its losses after shedding almost 500 points in the early afternoon. But the key 3,000 benchmark, which the Nikkei passed on December 13, fell further from view after the index first slipped below it on Tuesday. Turnover was a scant 500 million shares, as was Tuesday's.

● Frankfurt - The DAX index ended 26.31 points lower at 1,839.63. It had climbed by 22.70 on Tuesday to 1,865.94 - 10.29 below its all-time high of 1,876.23.

Profit-taking drove prices 1.4 per cent lower, in a technical correction to recent strong gains, dealers said. But trading was overshadowed by the news that Siemens, the big electronics group, was taking a majority stake in Nixdorf, the ailing computer company.

● Singapore - Strong buying in the afternoon lifted the revamped Straits Times industrial index to a record 1,569.52, up 13.04.

● Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index gained 45.84 points, or 1.62 per cent, to 2,868.00 and the Hong Kong index rose 29.78 to 1,852.32.

● Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index finished 0.9 points down at 1,689.7 after bouncing off a low of 1,679.4 reached shortly after the start.

EL buys Paris nightspots

European Leisure, the fast-growing disco and theme-pub group, has bought Le Palace, a discotheque in Paris with capacity for 3,000 people, and Sweet World Cafe, a theme restaurant offering seven different national menus, for Fr4 million (£6.89 million) cash.

The vendor is M Eric Vannier, a well-known businessman, and the mayor of Mont St Michel.

When another nightclub being developed opens in the spring, European Leisure will have six businesses in the French capital, plus London venues such as the Hippodrome and Camden Palace.

The money will be found out of its own resources.

Southern Business soars 51% to £10.3m

By Philip Pangalos

Pre-tax profits at Southern Business Group, the fast-growing USM photocopier and vending machine lessor, have continued to advance.

This time they jumped by 51 per cent to £10.3 million in the year to end-September.

The final dividend improved from 3.8p to 4.95p, making 7.83p for the year, up an increase of 30 per cent, while earnings per share rose by 35 per cent to 41p.

The group not only rents out photocopiers but also provides paper, toner and service.

Turnover, which was boosted by acquisitions, increased by 72 per cent to £33.2 million, while the group's forward-contracted income stood at £22.1 million, up 47 per cent.

The company said that

GKW Holdings, the photocopier distributor, acquired last March for £6 million, is being successfully integrated into operations under the group's overhead control systems. In addition, progress has been made in incorporating the business equipment division of Sandhurst Marketing, August's £5.5 million acquisition from WH Smith which added an installed base of 5,000 machines.

Mr David McErlain, the chairman, said the group is trading at record levels and with the full potential of the two most recent acquisitions to be realized in the coming months, he is confident of a highly successful year. The company also proposed a three-for-one scrip issue.

The shares rose advanced by 29p to 559p.



Profits up: David McErlain, centre, with directors John Murray and Roger Limpenny yesterday

Wessex Water Plc Interim Results

"I welcome our new Wessex shareholders and with them we look forward to the future of Wessex Water with confidence. Our half year results are as expected and we remain on course to achieve the full year profit forecast made in the prospectus."

Nicholas Hood
Chairman

Unaudited Group Results for the Six Months to 30 September 1989

	£million
TURNOVER	73.6
OPERATING PROFIT	24.6
Interest	15.8
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE AND AFTER TAXATION	8.8
Extraordinary Items	3.3
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	5.5

NOTES

1 The interim accounts for the six months to 30 September 1989, which are unaudited, have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the prospectus dated 22 November 1988 and are consistent with the accounting policies adopted for the year ended 31 March 1989.

Results for the six months to 30 September 1988 have not been presented. The Directors believe that comparison with this prior period would not be appropriate in view of changes during the current year in regulation, capital structure, in the level of infrastructure renewals expenditure and other costs associated with the Company's new status as a Plc.

The financial information contained in this interim statement does not amount to full accounts within the meaning of Section 254 of the Companies Act 1985.

2 Prior to 1 September 1989 Wessex Water was exempt from UK income, corporation and capital gains taxes. Until a liability to mainstream corporation tax or deferred tax arises, it is expected that the only tax charge to the profit and loss account will be the write off of advance corporation tax.

3 Extraordinary items relate to privatisation and restructuring costs.

4 Pro forma earnings per ordinary share for the six months 26.9p.

Pro forma earnings per ordinary share are calculated using the number of shares in issue at 22 November 1989 of 102.6 million and earnings of £27.6 million. The earnings are based upon the profit after tax for the half year adjusted by £21.7 million in respect of interest on a basis as if the present capital structure had been in place since 1 April 1989 and by including a pro forma taxation charge of £2.9 million. The pro forma taxation charge has been derived by applying the estimated effective rate for the year to 31 March 1989, based on the pro forma forecast in the prospectus, to the adjusted interim results. Actual earnings per ordinary share are not shown as the number of shares in issue during the six months to 30 September 1989 are not considered to be representative of the group's position following implementation of the new capital structure.

Threat of collapse in European fast breeder studies

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A warning that the European Fast Breeder Programme may collapse if Britain does not find ways of increasing its share of the funding was given to the Commons Energy Select Committee yesterday.

The programme is designed to develop the next generation of nuclear power stations which will be needed in the next century.

The Government has cut funding into research on nuclear power from £100 million a year to only £10 million in the next financial year.

In addition, the £30 million a year being paid towards the project by the Central Electricity Generating Board has ended because of the coming privatisation of the electricity industry.

The Government is retaining the network of nuclear power stations in state ownership and the two generating companies to be created from the existing CEBG will no longer have any statutory obligation for the security of electricity supply.

Because of that the CEBG has had to withdraw such funding as it prepares for its flotation early next year.

However, Mr Derek Davis, a main board member of the CEBG, yesterday told the committee that if Britain had to withdraw from the European programme, the programme could collapse.

France, the main country involved, would then likely turn to Japan for collaboration. Mr Davis said it was important Britain remained in the programme in order to steer technological development towards British requirements.

Mr Davis did tell the committee that National Nuclear Corporation, the British company involved, had been given funding for the first six months of the next financial year in order to remain in the project by the Atomic Energy Authority and by British Nuclear Fuels.

The corporation must give three months' notice of withdrawal from the project so a decision on whether it can stay does not have to be made until late summer, Mr Davis told the committee.

However, the CEBG said that National Power the larger of the two generating companies which will be created from it officially on March 31 would be willing to contribute to the cost of keeping Britain in the programme.

In evidence to the committee it said: "The CEBG has maintained support for development of fast reactor technology for more than two decades. There needs to be re-allocation and clarification of responsibilities and funding."

STOCK WATCH

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Wessex Water

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'Clothing imports could swamp UK'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The European Commission has been given a warning that Britain's clothing industry could be swamped by cheap imports if the European Community's textiles agreements with the rest of the world are abolished too swiftly.

The warning came from a delegation in Brussels from Britain's Retail Consortium, the trade body for most retailers. It urged the commission to phase out the import quota system over the next 10 years to give Britain time to prepare.

Mr Hugh Clark, the consortium's assistant director, said: "Otherwise, some markets will be flooded. It would be revolution rather than evolution."

Mr Roger Saul, the head of economic information at Marks and Spencer and a member of the delegation, said: "The British industry has made tremendous progress in the last 10 to 15 years, upgrading its capacity and productivity. It just needs time to set up a sound manufacturing base before the market is fully open."

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES **OTHER STERLING RATES**

OTHER STERLING RATES

DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
and	1.5765-1.5770	Denmark	8.4855-8.4905
receive	1.5760		

TES
5-84905 Risk:

MONEY MARKETS

ETS

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)
Open: \$405.25-405.75 (Close: \$405.25)

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

IV & V: 15.164 per cent.

pro fit: \$135.85 (E81.65)
r: \$5.28-5.30 (E3.1875-3.2025)

COMMODITIES

89.55 89.58 89.58 3743 31

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (25) Vol 288

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

THIRD MARKET

ICF-108 (Cont.)

COMMODITIES

Non 1H Jan	186-190
Non 1H Feb	187-188
5 Fuel Oil	97-99

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (2/5) Vol 288

89.55 89.58 89.58 3743 31

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (25) Vol 288

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	New Britain Foods	Foodstuffs	100
2	Charterhouse	Insurance	100
3	Bentley	Automotive	100
4	Ferranti (as)	Electronics	100
5	More Offshore	Oil & Gas	100
6	Plym	Chemicals	100
7	T & S Stores	Retail	100
8	Johnson Matthey	Chemicals	100
9	Peterson	Oil & Gas	100
10	Scammell	Industrial S-Z	100
11	Alfred Lyons (as)	Beverages	100
12	Electron House	Electronics	100
13	PPG Industries	Chemicals	100
14	Kentwell (A)	Industrial E-K	100
15	Wendley	Leisure	100
16	Lawrence (Walter)	Building Roads	100
17	Booker	Foodstuffs	100
18	Blue Arrow (as)	Industrial A-D	100
19	Comptel	Leisure	100
20	Quaker Group	Foodstuffs	100
21	Vesta	Industrial S-Z	100
22	Copson PLC	Building Roads	100
23	Tilbury Group	Building Roads	100
24	Howe	Building Roads	100
25	Wendle Stores Plc	Chemicals	100
26	Spur (UW)	Industrial S-Z	100
27	Warner Howard	Industrial S-Z	100
28	Laporte (as)	Chemicals	100
29	Johnston	Industrial E-K	100
30	Clark (Matthew)	Beverages	100
31	Chryslor	Property	100
32	Scammell	Industrial S-Z	100
33	Scott & New (as)	Beverages	100
34	Leisure	Leisure	100
35	Midland Red	Industrial A-D	100
36	Avon Rubber	Industrial A-D	100
37	Ranger	Oil & Gas	100
38	Ransomes	Industrial L-R	100
39	Valis	Electronics	100
40	Councils	Property	100
41	Lancaster	Industrial S-Z	100
42	Victoria	Industrial S-Z	100
43	Prospan	Property	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Scattered selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 27. Dealings end tomorrow. \$Contango day January 15. Settlement day January 22.

\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

BREWERIES

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

BUILDING, ROADS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

FINANCE, LAND

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

FOODS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

DRAPERY, STORES

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

ELECTRICALS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

INSURANCE

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

E-K

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

L-R

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

S-Z

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

OILS, GAS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

WATER

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

PROPERTY

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

SHIPPING

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

TEXTILES

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

TOBACCO

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

WATER

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

INSURANCE

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E

E-K

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
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NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
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OILS, GAS

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WATER

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

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PROPERTY

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SHIPPING

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SHOES, LEATHER

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WATER

1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E	1989/90 High Low Company Bid Offer Change % P/E
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WATER

248	137	200	Frax	141	145	30	126	65
236	135	175	Seaford	340	345	48.7	55	65
122	50	50	Town Lines	84	90	1.4	12.5	60
217	88	100	Woodland Park	615	620	..	..	..	18.3	45	60
122	50	400	UK Land	415	425	..	..	..	19.4	45	60
62	31	31	Uran Exps	33	37	..	..	..	1.6	4.8	67
260	165	165	Western Sps	152	150	..	..	..	90	48	242
3	252	252	Wheat	265	265	..	..	..	8.3	2.7	65
128	58	58	Worcester	80	91	..	-2	..	6.7	9.1	13.4
120	58	58	Worshipale	60	70	..	..	..	2.3	8.7	39
235	115	115	Wrest	191	194	18.1	21	22.8
235	115	115	Wrest & County	150	170	48.7	11.7	28

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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

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You have had a minimum of three years experience in a senior secretarial / PA position, and it is unlikely that applicants under 28 years of age will have gained the necessary experience. You are accustomed to taking responsibility in your post and can demonstrate a successful career to date, which has relied on excellent communication and organisational skills. You are of a bright, cheerful disposition, with a good sense of humour and display traits which distinguish you from others around you. Unafraid of hard work and by truly working 'with others' to provide the best service possible you have in the past been able to gain respect and credibility quickly and wholeheartedly from your colleagues, subordinates and superiors alike.

If this sounds like your career history to date, then you are the person we are looking for. As PA to the President you will enjoy a worthwhile, varied, if sometimes pressurised, position at the College, which will bring you into contact with: eminent physicians, politicians, overseas dignitaries, etc. You will bring with you excellent secretarial skills which will include shorthand, audio typing and wordprocessing, but moreover a genuine interest in the work of the College.

In return for your skills, we will offer you a competitive salary, 25 days per annum holiday, plus additional days at Easter and Christmas, free staff lunches in our restaurant, interest free travel loans, a good contributory pension scheme, and a pleasant working environment.

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The College operates a 'No Smoking Policy'

Institute of Actuaries

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required by the Secretary-General of an examining professional body, incorporated by Royal Charter (1884). The position, which arises due to the impending retirement of the present holder of the office, requires secretarial skills (but shorthand is not prerequisite, though desirable) and a positive willingness to be proactive. There is additional, more junior, secretarial support.

The Institute's offices are in historic Staple Inn, adjacent to Chancery Lane Underground Station.

The starting salary will be circa £14,000 p.a., with a non-contributory pension scheme. If you are interested, write (or Fax to 01-405 2482) for further particulars to C D A Mackie, Secretary-General, Institute of Actuaries, Staple Inn Hall, London, WC1V 7QJ; firm applications, which must be received by 26 January, should be marked 'Personal'.

(Positively, no agencies!)

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Require an experienced

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First class typing on W.P. essential together with ability to organise and arrange of business.

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Hours 8.30 - 5.30 with 4 weeks holiday.

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Contact Anne Quinn 405 4571 x 43.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

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* CONTRACTS *

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- * IBM
- * UNISYS
- * IBM
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Roman Catholic Independent Day School for Girls aged 11-18 yrs.

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required for April/May 1990

The Board of Governors wish to appoint a suitably experienced Secretary to fill this important position which arises on the retirement of the present postholder at the end of the Summer Term 1990.

The person appointed must be flexible in approach and prepared to undertake a variety of tasks to ensure the efficient day to day running of a busy school office.

The position is full time with an annual holiday entitlement of 6 weeks (to be taken during school holiday periods). Starting salary up to £16,000 p.a. (inc. London allowance) depending upon age and experience.

Applications should be made in writing and sent with a full c.v. and the names and addresses of two referees to:

Clerk to the Governors
More House School
22-24 Pont Street
London SW1X 0AA

from whom further information is available.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 30 January 1990

Group Administrator

£20,000

A leading firm of management consultants in EC4 is looking for a senior PA with a flair for administration to assist in the day to day running of the executive office. Duties will range from minuting meetings and arranging complicated travel itineraries to maintaining a database and overseeing support work in the office.

The ideal candidate must have a high degree of initiative and would need to demonstrate large company experience to date in an executive level administrative/personal assistant role. Skills of 100/60, audio typing experience and an understanding of computers are essential. Age 27-40.

Please telephone Caroline Smith on 01-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

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Required for Partner and Assistant in professional department of West End Chartered Surveyors.

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01-224 2222

No Agencies.

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RUTLEDGE, TABERY, WILSON S.A.

wishes to appoint as soon as possible

a secretary (m./f.)

- English mother tongue

- excellent command of spoken and written French

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- independent attitude and ability to work on own initiative

- word processor experience an advantage

- good personal presentation - non smoker

Candidates should reply by returning their handwritten application letter with full curriculum vitae to:

Fiduciaire Rutledge, Tabery, Wilson, S.A.

B.P. 864, 7, Rue Pierre d'Aspelt, 1142 Luxembourg.

ADMINISTRATOR SECRETARY

National Foodservice Company requires a strong, organising oriented Personal Assistant for its Operations Director.

Whilst excellent secretarial skills are required, it is equally important that this role be filled by a person who can give the lead in bringing about necessary administrative changes brought on by rapid group expansion.

We can certainly offer a challenging position in return for hard work and the ability to use initiative.

Salary to £15,000

Contact Jill Krebs on 01 955 0182

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01 229 9375.

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD RESEARCH COUNCIL (AFRC)

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING RESEARCH

£36,818 - £41,296

Applications are invited for the post of Director of Engineering Research, to succeed Professor John Matthews CBE, who retires in July 1990.

The person appointed will be directly responsible to the Secretary to the AFRC for the management of the AFRC Institute of Engineering Research, Wrest Park, Silsoe, near Bedford, where the post is located.

The Director will be expected to make a major contribution to the development of an engineering research strategy, in support of research at AFRC Institutes, in Higher Education Institutions, in private industry and through international research collaboration, in the European Community and in the Third World. The postholder will be a member of the AFRC Management Board. Candidates should be professionally

qualified in engineering and must have a distinguished record of innovative research. Experience in the management of research at a senior level and a knowledge of agricultural engineering and food process technology are prime requirements.

Benefits include a non-contributory pension, and the successful candidate may qualify for assistance with removal expenses.

The AFRC is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Mr J M Y Dickens, Chief Personnel Officer, Agricultural and Food Research Council, Central Office, Wiltshire Court, Farnsbury Street, Swindon SN1 5AT (0793 514242 ext. 315).

The closing date for applications is 31 January 1990.



TECHNOLOGY

Slurry with fringe benefits on top

Bob Rodwell talks to a man who is proving that where there's muck, there really is money to be made

Within two years the entire Coleraine campus of the University of Ulster, County Derry, may be heated with methane gas derived from dung at Europe's first commercial slurry processing plant, to be built nearby.

Les Gornall's Green Land Systems is negotiating to supply the university with gas along a one-mile pipeline from his plant which will also produce liquid fertilizer and a dry bagged peat substitute and soil conditioner.

In its first phase, the plant will be scaled to handle the waste products of 1,000 head of cattle and, in its early days, also digest 30,000 tonnes of sewage sludge.

Delivery of what others would regard as a big headache, but which Gornall sees as the equivalent of 7,500 tonnes of best anthracite, will be spread over five years.

"Farm slurry, pig manure, sewage sludge, poultry droppings — it's all a carbon source to me and as good as an oil field," says Gornall, who has spent 12 years developing the technology. He argues that, potentially, the by-products of a cattle herd comfortably exceed in value the beef on the hoof.

"A medium-sized cattle house

produces about 33 tonnes of beef a year — and 3,000 tonnes of slurry. This in turn contains methane of at least the value of the beef together with 300 tonnes of fibrous matter, which is almost all carbon and as good as 300 tonnes of best anthracite. But at the moment farmers concentrate on those two lorry loads of beef and throw away the 30 lorry loads of coal."

In October, Gornall picked up a £37,500 Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology (SMART) from the Department of Trade and Industry to aid the £128,000 development of his improved composting/dryer, which is the latest advance in a system he first established for the organically farming Cistercian monks of Bethlehem Abbey at Portlaine in County Antrim.

The monks take vows of poverty and so are almost embarrassed by the fact that their 300 head of cattle produce gas and fertilizers worth more than £60,000 annually.

The gas heats the abbey and they cannot produce enough liquid fertilizer and horticultural peat substitute to satisfy local demand, while their organically grown crops command up to three times the prices of those



Les Gornall loads his composting-dryer: "Pig manure, sewage sludge, poultry droppings — it's all a carbon source to me and as good as an oil field"

grown with synthetic fertilizers. Gornall's digesters throw off the gas with gentle heating and produce a pumpable liquid. This is mechanically separated into odourless liquid fertilizer and its most valuable constituent, the fibrous matter.

His new composting/dryer pasteurizes and dries the fibre and has a computerized system to produce the optimum conditions for the actinomyces bacteria and the cellulose-reducing fungi which gobble up the woody bits producing, in seven days, compost

that would take 21 weeks to produce in other systems and a year naturally on the forest floor.

De-humidifying equipment is used to dry the fibre at a relatively low temperature, 80°C, to avoid killing the high-temperature bac-

teria on which composting depends.

Days after his DTI award, Gornall was demonstrating his system at the Ecotech 89 exhibition in Utrecht in The Netherlands. To maximize flexibility in energy recovery, he has become the sole

'Farmers concentrate on two lorry loads of beef and throw away 30 lorries of coal'

European agent for the United States Ajax range of slow single-cylinder valveless "sour gas" engines, used on oil fields to run on raw methane from the wells.

He marries these engines with up-to-the-minute wind generator technology to obtain power and recovers, for space heating, the heat of the engine combustion itself.

Waste products produced on Ulster's farms are potentially the foundation for a £100 million-a-year industry, Gornall claims, and could benefit the provincial economy by as much as £500 million a year.

Costs have fallen to the extent that a system for a herd as small as 40 head is now viable. His first private buyer is a County Antrim farmer with 70 cattle, who is receiving a 50 per cent grant towards the £40,000 cost.

He will see a speedy return on investment, because the by-product value will be at least £7,000 a year, and with the gas heating his home and his brother-in-law's house next door, he should be feeling very snug.



Ian Harvey of BTG: he predicts a beneficial relationship

Industry wins new support

The British Technology Group (BTG), the world's leading technology-transfer group, has endowed the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at the University of London's Queen Mary and Westfield College with a £2,000 scholarship for students on the MSc course in intellectual property law (Nick Nuttall writes).

BTG's decision reflects the growth in the past decade of new academic and industry-generated technology and the increasing need to protect inventions and ideas from intellectual theft. The scholarship will help students — graduates in science and technology — who find it hard to get further funding for studies in this area of the law. Students keen to study for

an MSc in intellectual property usually have to fund themselves because the course falls outside the academic fields for which postgraduate funding is available.

BTG hopes that the establishment of an endowment will help the group forge links with the University of London, whose property-law unit is admired as a key centre in Britain for advanced teaching and research of patent, copyright and information law.

Ian Harvey, BTG's chief executive, says: "We are delighted to be supporting the intellectual property unit. We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship which will help encourage the effective protection of both academic and industrial invention."

A gas potentially more ozone-unfriendly than CFCs is now a target

Green protesters turn heat on world of computers

PERSPECTIVE

By David Frost

Environmental issues are high on the agenda, and the computer industry is coming under scrutiny. California's Silicon Valley, in particular, is the site of growing protest about the continuing use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) to clean computer components. CFCs are said to damage the Earth's protective ozone layer, contributing to what has become known as the greenhouse effect.

Computer rooms are also under scrutiny. Halon, a gas potentially more damaging to the ozone layer than CFCs, is released intentionally or accidentally at hardware sites.

Fire is the main cause of irretrievable data loss. Until recently, halon-based fire-protection systems have usually been recommended.

Insurance companies also prefer this type of system, but computer users increasingly are worried about the environmental consequences of releasing halon into the atmosphere, although the amount of that expelled by aerosol sprays and refrigerators.

Halon gas incorporates bromine compounds, as well as chlorine. Both are believed to damage the ozone layer. Bromine compounds are thought

to be even more hazardous than CFCs because it can cause damage by reacting with ozone, even without sunlight and oxygen, which must be present for CFCs to react with ozone. Bromine levels are said to be increasing at 5 per cent a year.

Fire extinguishers using halon are still the most common form of extinguisher in computer rooms, according to a survey by the international consultants Price Waterhouse.

The gas has become widespread in computer rooms because it operates quickly — it can normally extinguish a fire in 60 seconds, does not conduct electricity, is considered non-toxic to computers and people (although there is a possibility that when the gas is released, people who are in the region can go temporarily deaf or suffer frost-bite and eye damage), has a high penetration and can be cleared from a computer room relatively quickly after it has extinguished the fire.

On the other hand, apart from the environmental hazards, halon is expensive and

the release of the gas can be powerful, in some cases bringing down false ceilings and smashing windows.

An alternative gas will probably take another 10 years to develop. The only large alternative system uses water sprinklers, which are environmentally sound but have other disadvantages.

Impurities in the water can damage computer equipment and the combination of water and electricity can be a dangerous mixture. Water from sprinklers may not percolate to fires inside cabinets or equipment and it can be difficult to recover information from soaking equipment or soggy storage media.

Neither halon nor sprinkler systems alone are completely efficient. A mixture of the two — halon in the floor voids and water sprinklers overhead coupled with effective heat and smoke detectors — is best.

Another water-based alternative, which is still being developed, sprays a fine mist of water from ceiling jets. On contact with the heat, the mist

turns to steam and smothers the fire. This uses smaller amounts of water and causes less damage to equipment.

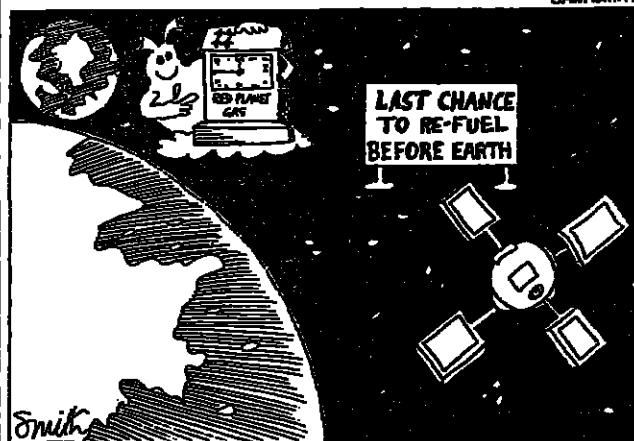
Systems designed to British Standards specifications and installed properly should include integral checking mechanisms and control circuitry, features to minimize the risk of accidental release of halon gas. To prevent the release of halon during fire tests, quality-control checks and room-integrity testing, with fan-pressureurization techniques to prove room tightness, can be introduced.

As well as these sophisticated systems, simpler approaches to minimizing the damage to the ozone layer can also be effective.

About half of the fires that destroy computer systems start outside the computer room. Basic fire precautions should be observed throughout the building. This includes a ban on smoking and using only fire-resistant furnishings.

For committed environmentalists, the halon issue is only one of many in the greening of industry but it is an area where immediate action is possible.

● The author is a partner in Price Waterhouse, specializing in data security.



Mars as a space service station

A spacecraft that runs out of fuel on a jaunt to Mars would leave its crew stranded millions of miles from Cape Canaveral and the last "filling station".

Mission planners calculate that 120 tonnes of fuel will be needed to get a manned ship to Mars and back. Yet carrying so much fuel is likely to hamper mankind's efforts to set up Martian bases and ultimately to colonize the heavens. Precious scientific equipment would have to stay behind to make way for the enormous propellant payload.

To cut the amount of fuel needed on Martian missions, the American space agency, Nasa, is considering an ambitious solution — to harness the gases in the Martian atmosphere as a fuel source and build refineries on its surface.

The idea is to launch ships with just enough fuel to get to Mars. The ships would then fill up on the planet for the return trip.

Since 1977, engineers at the internationally renowned Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, have grappled with just such an idea but have been restricted by dwindling Nasa budgets. The American science magazine *Discover* says the project is now back in business because of renewed Nasa funding and a private grant.

Hopes are high that a system able to extract rocket fuel from the Martian air to provide a filling station service to visiting spacecrafts may soon be possible.

The atmosphere of Mars contains oxygen, one of the principal ingredients of rocket fuel, in large quantities. It is in the form of carbon dioxide gas, which accounts for 96.5 per cent of the atmosphere.

Robert Ash, one of the laboratory's engineers developing the system, says: "Most liquid rocket engines

are one part combustible materials such as liquid hydrogen, and up to 10 parts liquid oxygen."

The system, which the team has developed into a prototype model, involves sucking the Martian air into a processor and heating it to about 1,800 degrees. Some of the carbon dioxide is split into free oxygen and carbon monoxide.

First, oxygen is separated with the use of a zirconium membrane that attracts ionized atoms of oxygen. It is then liquefied and stored in cooled containers. Tests with a simulated Martian atmosphere, using the team's model, have managed to extract a tenth of a cubic foot of oxygen from every cubic foot of air. "Eventually," Ash says, "we would like to get two-and-a-half times that."

The project comes at a key time in the push to conquer Mars. Plans are at an advanced stage to send an unmanned mission to the planet at the turn of the century. A manned visit would follow several years later.

The Pasadena team thinks that if the extraction and refinery unit could be sent to Mars 12 months ahead of the astronauts, there would be enough fuel ready and waiting for the return trip.

Some Nasa planners are said to be wary about travelling so far without the total certainty of return-trip fuel. However, even if the extraction and refinery system does not produce the fuel expected, Nasa believes it could play a critical role.

"As we establish permanent bases on the moon and Mars, we will need to 'live off the land'," Frank Martin, of Nasa's office of exploration, says. "Refineries will be indispensable when we are not just travelling to distant bodies, but living on them."

Nick Nuttall

Cutting the CFCs

Components can now be soldered and mounted on to printed circuit boards (PCBs) without the need for environmentally damaging chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), gases linked with damage of the Earth's ozone layer.

BOC, the former British Oxygen Company, has developed a process that allows the board-makers to mount parts without the need for a cleaning phase in which, currently, CFC chemicals are used. Conventionally "surface-mount" soldering of electronic parts uses a solder paste containing resin-based flux. For a variety of reasons, including insula-

tion and aesthetics, the residue of paste left on the board must be washed off by CFC solvents.

What the BOC researchers have done as part of a three-year project is to develop a paste which contains no resin-based flux and a special atmosphere in which soldering is done.

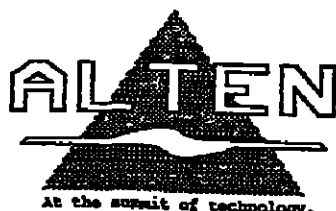
The atmosphere decomposes the excess paste into gases, leaving behind a clean circuit board.

Neil Downie, BOC's electronics development manager, Europe, says the process helps manufacturers by cutting environmental damage, and costs.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

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TECHNOLOGY

An increasing number of disabled and housebound people are working from home and playing an active role in business, Leslie Tilley reports

When disability is no handicap

The information technology industry is being targeted by a number of groups keen to increase the job opportunities for those with physical handicaps. Computing is ideally suited, as there is a wide range of high-level jobs which are technology based, and the tools of the trade can be easily adapted to the special needs of those with disabilities, such as implementing voice-activated, as opposed to keyboard-activated, systems.

The problem of enabling handicapped people to work at home, when they are housebound or where a firm's premises may not be suitable and cannot be adapted, can sometimes be solved by no more than a personal computer and a telephone to link them effectively with their office colleagues.

The Department of Trade and Industry launched a project some years ago to match "home-based disabled people with employers and with jobs which use computer equipment. A number of firms offered positions, primarily as programmers and word processor operators. The Remote Work Units project, managed by the IT World consultancy firm, was such a success that the original six jobs were increased to 60.

"It was difficult at the start, as we were presenting a number of new concepts, such as a career in information technology, home-working and real jobs for the

JOBSCE

disabled," says Breda Robertson, IT World consultant. "There were failures because some people and jobs did not work out, but there were many, many successes. The motivation of the company evolved from a cost-cutting exercise to altruism. Now there are more interesting motivations, such as making use of their technological investment."

The Department of Employment has taken over responsibility for the programme through the Disabling Advisory Service, which provides assistance in recruitment, training, special aids and grants for equipment.

However, it reports in an evaluation study that "the potential for disabled people is not always fully exploited by employers", although they are often highly qualified and can work as effectively as able-bodied staff.

The study points out that disabled employees can convert from on-site workers to home-based workers relatively easily and that the IT industry "opens up both new and retention job opportunities for disabled people to work from home".

It found that computer equipment can be successfully operated by people with varying degrees of disability - including the most severely physically disabled - with little or no adaptation.

IT World has also developed a

range of home-based training facilities to get around the problem of developing IT skills. However, Robertson says it found that many disabled people are not aware of the career opportunities.

"We found it was a bit of a chicken and egg situation. At the end of the DIT project, we had many more IT jobs than disabled people to fill them. There is a hidden group of enabled disabled people who are isolated at home and not looking for employment. We found we had to go to inordinate lengths to tease them out of the woodwork."

On the other hand, the IT industry finds difficulty in attracting highly qualified specialists and is more ideally placed than most to capitalize on its technology to attract those who may be forced to abandon their existing careers.

The British Computer Society (BCS) is now putting its weight behind a number of initiatives. The Specialist Group for the Disabled helps in finding equipment and provides other support services. Its IT Support for the Disabled project seeks to raise awareness among employers and offers a helpline for firms.

"Firms tend to look for people who already have IT skills, rather than how technology can help disabled people do jobs such as office work," says Tom Mangan, the project's information officer. "However, those who have IT skills are already employed. Many firms are unaware of the unlimited



The Duke of Kent watches Geoff Busby demonstrate a computer at the British Computer Society Awards

grants available for providing training, equipment and adapting the premises to suit people with disabilities.

The BCS is investigating the possibility of a database to match employer's staffing needs with suitably experienced potential recruits, and is getting together with a number of representative groups to form an umbrella organization next spring to raise awareness in industry.

Firms with more than 20 staff are required by law to employ a quota of registered disabled persons (Employment) Act. Firms say

they are unable to monitor the system, as many with disabilities prefer not to register.

Geoff Busby, director of the BCS group, says that firms "are not meeting the three per cent quota", and should do more training. "Those with disabilities are not being trained to a high enough level," he adds.

He points out that a "key issue" which needs to be tackled by the Government is disability allowances, as these are cut as soon as employment is found. Salaries do not often match the perks and benefits available and he instead calls for benefits to be "scaled

down" as salaries rise. This is another reason why the IT industry is popular, as the salaries are high and tend to compensate more than other occupations.

employment, the manufacturing business set up by the Government after the war to employ disabled people, is looking to IT as a way of improving the career prospects of its staff.

Most work in the firm's factories, although many have degrees and are skilled in other occupations. The company cur-

Ring in the new

British Telecom is backing a new company, run by disabled people, which will specialize in designing and making affordable telecommunications equipment for the severely handicapped (Nick Nuttall writes).

The Liverpool company BIT 32, which already makes special computer systems for the disabled, has received £70,000 funding for the launch under BT's Community Action budget.

The new company, to be called Hansoff Systems Ltd, hopes to be self-financing within 18 months.

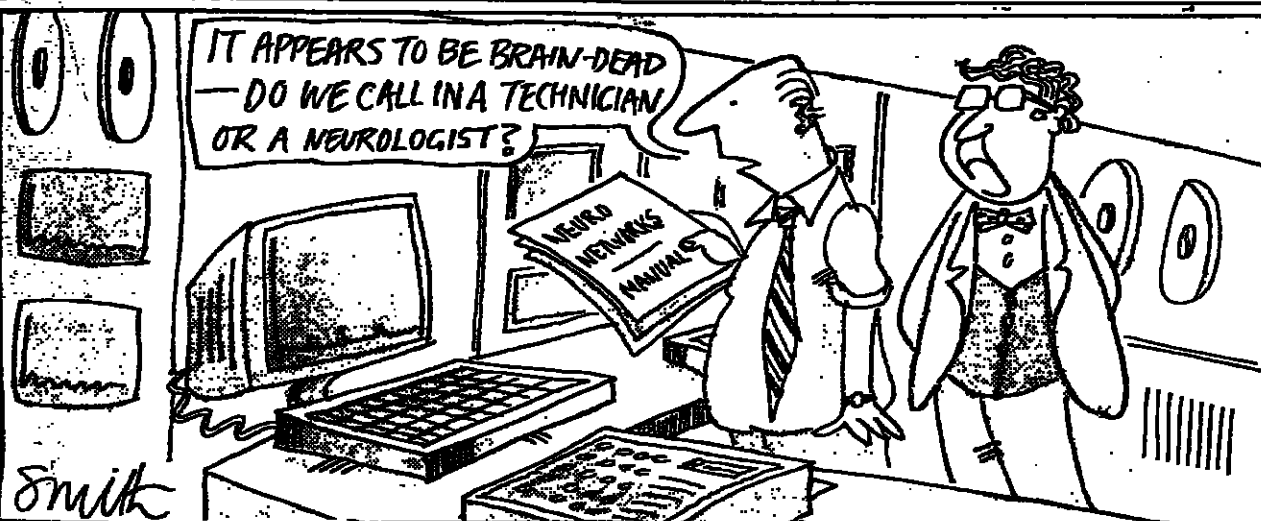
Mike Farnsworth, BT's operator services and support manager, says: "We hit on the idea of tailor-made equipment and looked around for a partner."

Jobs at the new firm are being advertised and there is to be no limit on an applicant's range of disabilities.

currently employs 11,000 staff, of whom 9,000 are registered as severely disabled.

"We are looking at ways of enhancing the career opportunities for those with a good education and who worked in offices rather than with their hands," says Mark Daymond, personnel director of Remploy.

"IT does offer a number of possibilities. We are starting a new scheme called Interwork to employ disabled staff and subcontract them to other firms. It takes the hassle of managing it from the employer."



Something to think about

William McCall on moves towards computers with brains like humans

In the beginning, there were digital computers, big, slow and very stupid. Half a century later, digital computers are very small and fast, but when it comes to thinking they are still idiots compared with humans. But what would happen if computer circuits could be made to resemble our brains - if they could learn from their mistakes?

Hundreds of tiny companies have sprung up in the past three years hoping to answer - and cash in on - those questions with an approach called neural networks, named after the neurons that are the basic structure of the human nervous system. Carlos Tapang, a 36-year-old Filipino physicist who left chip-maker Intel to start Synaptic Systems, has delivered what he believes is the first commercially available neural network chip to Electrodyne, a Japanese company.

The chip is called Dendro-1, a reference to dendrites, the highly branched filaments which allow human cells to communicate. It simulates the work of neurons, which re-

ceive a variety of signals through dendrites and produce a single result. Tapang compares the chip's function to measuring the flow of water through a network of different-sized pipes by emptying them into a single pool. Such a system of computing values is called "analogue", which implies a continuous form of measurement, like the sweep second hand on a watch.

Digital computers, like digital watches, chop time and numbers into tiny bits and add them up, one at a time. "Bits" are the smallest unit of information in the binary system which is the "brain" of a digital computer. The great advantage of today's digital computers is that they can add those bits very fast, even if it is done only one bit at a time.

There is some evidence that the neural cells in our brains use a kind of digital system to transmit signals. These on-off

pulses, called spikes, confused early researchers and led some to believe that the brain relied on a digital model to process information. Instead, they found it was only a tiny portion of a complex electrochemical network which channels signals the way Tapang is trying to imitate.

The key word is "network". It is the interaction of neurons in our brains that gives rise to thought, not the action of a single neuron. In that sense, Tapang says, digital computers are doomed to be electronic dunces because their chips are designed to be solitary devices called central processing units, channelling all operations through one electronic "pipe".

However, some computer scientists and industry analysts are sceptical that neural networks will replace digital computing. Neural networks will "be a fine addition to what we've got now, but

they'll just supplement it", says Esther Dyson, editor and publisher of *Release 1.0*, a New York computer newsletter. "They'll never replace the mathematically precise logic of a digital system. They're good at things like pattern recognition, but still cannot cope with our kind of fuzzy thinking."

One California-based company, Synaptics, has used neural network technology to develop what it calls a silicon retina. An array of photo sensors emulates the light receptors in the eye, and an analogue computer processes the image for display on a video monitor.

Tapang uses capacitors to simulate neurons, which rely on chemicals to transmit signals between synapses. Capacitors store and release electricity in much the same way. Dendro-1 has one fixed connection and 22 variable ones which simulate synapses. It can be layered with other chips to create an overlapping network of communicating capacitors that "fire" signals to each other.

Cancer hit by sound

A potential way of boosting the power of cancer-killing drugs has been discovered by scientists in California. The technique harnesses the effects of ultra-high frequency sound or ultrasound in the hope that it will make cancer cells more open to chemical attack.

Adriamycin is one of the most common drugs used to fight cancer. Unfortunately, it is highly toxic to heart muscle. The new technique, in which ultrasound is targeted on a tumour, promises to increase the drug dose that goes into the cancer cells without large amounts reaching the heart.

Dr George Hahn, professor of radiation oncology at Stanford University, says early trials on mice tumours are encouraging, but admitted his team was still unsure why ultrasound worked in this way.

He says: "It is a pressure wave that induces motion in molecules. It is not unreasonable to hypothesize that this increases the passage of drugs into the cells or to certain structures, almost like pushing them in."

The ultrasound system the Stanford team is using is 100 times more powerful than the machines used for diagnosis.

Researchers are planning more animal experiments and Hahn expects to do the first human tests on breast cancer victims. Adriamycin is known to be effective against such tumours, and being nearer the surface they are easier to tackle with ultrasound.

Business receptive to information technology developments may find it easier to recruit and retain high-quality staff, a survey of leading British companies suggests.

Turnover in skilled staff is emerging as an increasing cause for concern within western industry and commerce as the era of the baby boom is supplanted by the 1990s, a decade in which the level of school and university graduates is set to slump.

But, the study indicates, if companies are "early adopters" of new technology and provide high-level training to support this, the economic dangers of staff turnover can be minimized.

This is just one of the findings from Excellence and the IT Factor, conducted by MSA Business Survey of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Fifteen of Britain's top-performing Stock Exchange companies over the past five years, including Asda, Avon Rubber, Emap, ICI, Grand Metropolitan, the Pentland Group, Safeway and Tarmac Quarry Products, were asked about their policies and attitudes to IT.

The survey also aimed to try to identify the role that such technologies could play in business success.

It found that most managers questioned believed that IT was now "inextricably linked" to business strategy. Few mentioned it in relation to competitive advantage, but many admitted that the innovative actions of others played a role in the harnessing of new developments.

However, one admitted: "Markets are changing to such an extent that your competitor might not actually be the person that you see as your competitor. Certainly suppliers... keep us posted on how far we are behind or not."

Another key finding was the

How to win the winners

What attracts skilled IT staff

increasing autonomy being given to departments charged with running a company's IT operations.

Most managers viewed freedom for their IT professionals to devise strategic and tactical business technology solutions as a crucial ingredient in their company's overall success.

In terms of hiring, only one company said it looked for specific academic qualifications. Nearly all said that experience was the key reason for employment.

"A love of change" and personal communication skills were also identified as important employee qualities.

Asda, the supermarket chain, emphasized that arts graduates could also make excellent IT staff members.

Most of those asked emphasized training. Each company spent an average of 4.4 per cent of their £120,000 average annual IT budget on training.

For the make of equipment most favoured, IBM ranked highest for hardware. But many emphasized that they also used other suppliers, such as Digital Equipment and ICL.

No single supplier of personal computers dominated the survey.

Most companies said they saw two or three years as the realistic time-scale for planning IT strategies.

Avon Rubber said: "We used

to talk in five-year and 10-year horizons, but we found that beyond three was so much of a projection, it had little credibility."

However, Tarmac said: "We have a two-year look, but the objective with the IT strategy is to give us something that will operate for 10 years."

The increasing cost of software and the need to harness the growing data storage and power of PCs were mentioned as concerns for the future.

For most companies, 1992 and the single market posed little special challenge to their IT policies.

An ICI official said: "There is nothing special about 1992 in terms of our strategy."

An Avon Rubber spokesman said: "I am getting somewhat concerned that we are all pretending 1992 is going to be very significant, but we haven't got a clue what it means."

"If you ask me, 1995 is going to be the big headache, because by that time things will have happened... it will be very serious."

Most of the companies said they viewed external IT consultancies as "facilitators" rather than a strategic or management resource.

Consultants were in the main considered to be expensive and to be used when resources were stretched or when a company was entering an alien area in which internal knowledge was slim or non-existent. They are also used for specific studies.

"Caution" sums up the general view of the interviewees over harnessing outside resources, according to the report.

Nevertheless, some companies were enthusiastic. Asda said: "There was no way in which, by ourselves, we could have replaced every system four years."

Nick Nuttall

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Apricot by another name

Apricot, the Birmingham-based computer company, has chosen the corporate name of ACT, which it used when it was founded 25 years ago, to launch a new software division.

The move, timed for the launch of a new software division, marks a return to basics as the company shifts its emphasis from manufacturing. ACT will include Apricot's own computer-services division, as well as recent purchases Logsys, Signet and IFL. It is seeking a partner for the computer-manufacturing side of its business, which may be based in the Far East.

Prompting the move is research indicating that the computer systems integration market is expected to grow by 40 per cent a year. The company adds that it is still committed to manufacturing.

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BRIEFING



by Nick Nuttall

Battelle, is developing an environmentally safe anti-fouling method for keeping barnacles and other marine and freshwater life forms off submerged surfaces.

"Marine paints now in use incorporate organotin compounds which, ecologists say, are not only toxic to the organisms but toxic to the rest of the environment when they degrade," says Richard Dick of Battelle's polymer science and technology department.

"Our new anti-fouling technology can create a polymer made with organic materials that does not have to degrade actively to be effective. The toxicity level is very low but also effective in making organisms so

uncomfortable that they will not attach."

The polymer can be either painted on or incorporated into a submerged surface's materials. It is being tested at the company's materials research facility at Daytona Beach, Florida - with encouraging results.

IBM is launching a multi-million pound joint venture with the Institute for the Development of Andalusia, and Expo '92, which is aimed at producing computers that, for the first time, will read, translate and even speak Spanish. The scheme, which involves the founding of a Language Technology Centre in Seville, will also try to tackle lesser-known regional dialects such as Catalan.

The University of Warwick, the Rover Group and Rolls-Royce, have founded an advanced technology centre for post graduate research. It was opened by the Prime Minister this week.

The centre, which will comprise an advanced technology unit and an advanced ceramics unit, aims to bring university and company staff into closer contact through the sharing of facilities.

Partners claim the centre is a unique project in the field of industry and academic collaboration.

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Base metal on road to Olympic gold

Finding it difficult to express the truth

Media coverage of sports was kept under close control. After an early flirtation with leading sporting figures, designed to boost his image and popularity, Ceausescu ended up by banning some of the most famous Romanian athletes from the pages of the newspapers and the television screen.

The front covers of the Romanian magazines ceased to publish head and shoulder shots of individual athletes. As an example, Mircea Anghelescu, the interim Sports Minister, cited the case of the gymnast, Nadia Comaneci. He said: "The fairy of Montreal became a non-person during the last few years. She was driven to sheer desperation by the regime. After Montreal, Ceausescu made her hero of socialist labour. Afterwards, he would avoid having any personalities around. The promotion of any individual was expressly forbidden."

Francis Vashag, the first Romanian to win an amateur world title in boxing, was particularly unlucky. Ceausescu was involved in one of his traditional visits to the country and the tame *Sportul* newspaper devoted so much space to him that it failed to report Vashag's achievement for three days.

"If Ceausescu's photo was on the front page, no other picture was allowed to appear," Radu Timofte, a reporter with the daily newspaper, *Gazeta Sporturilor*, said.

"We journalists became the pawns of the national sports council who used us to pursue their own interests or cover up their failures. We made an insignificant win look big and had to falsify match reports to please some top politicians. We lied knowingly and for me personally this was my professional death sentence," he said.

Cornel Dinu, the deputy sports minister, identified one of the most pressing problems for the country, and for journalists in particular, of life after the revolution. "After several decades of dictatorship, people are either used to give orders or to obey orders and it's very difficult to make them respect and use their newly won democratic rights," he said.

Paul Iovan, the veteran sports journalist, said: "After such a long time in darkness we find difficulty in expressing the truth. We have struggled to find the way to be honest. We are unused to thinking freely. We still wait for someone to come and give us some orders and above everything else there is the self-censorship which was a means of survival and is now preventing us from being free."

"Ceausescu encouraged the most base characteristics in human beings: disloyalty, envy and treachery."

AFTER THE REVOLUTION

Chris Thau, a Romanian journalist who is based in England, has returned to his homeland to see how the fall of the Ceausescu regime has affected sport and sportsmen there. In his last report he finds that Olympic success has been achieved against a background of hardship and deprivation

in charge and coaching his wife, Natalia (the former mile world record-holder). There was very little chance for me to make a name for myself in only one or two competitions.

"Can you believe that there are Romanian sports writers who, in the 23 years of my career, have never spoken to me. For them only gold medals were good, silver and bronze were simply not good enough. That was a reflection of the official policy. There is one journalist who has done so much damage to Romanian sport."

"I am amused reading his articles nowadays. He is now



Free to speak at last: Puica and Patzai, pictured together after the revolution, often found themselves at odds with Ceausescu's officials

criticizing the same people he was praising a few months ago.

"I remember the 1984 Olympics. I was ill before the 1,500 metres final so I came only third. By that time the management of the Romanian delegation had become so full of themselves that they wouldn't even speak to an athlete winning anything less than gold. After the race I went to the headquarters of the Romanian delegation. The top brass were drinking champagne and I remember that I was holding the medal in my hand. They didn't even look at my well done. Gold—that was the only thing which

counted."

Fatzai endorses those sentiments. "The same thing happened to me at the Olympics," he says. "In 1976 I missed the gold in Montreal and suddenly I became a non-person. In Los Angeles I won the silver in the first race and they wouldn't even talk to me. The following day I went beyond my limits to win the Olympic title. I saw the film of the race and I couldn't recognize myself. My face didn't have anything human in it."

"I remember in 1972 at the Munich Olympics I won my gold and a silver and all they said then was 'very good.' They never

published my photograph in the sports newspaper, nor was I interviewed on TV because I refused to cut my hair short and Ceausescu used to hate people with long hair.

"Traditionally Olympic champions are presented with a cash reward. In Los Angeles we were told that we were not going to get any money because it was Ceausescu who sent us to the Olympics and without him we would never have a chance to get the medals."

"During the last few years most of my colleagues have been per-

secuted. Some of them had to suffer for what they said, some of them for what they didn't say, but someone somewhere informed on them. Some have been accused of not trying hard enough, some had to suffer for the actions of their brothers, sisters or friends. If one of your relatives decided to go abroad or defect, that was the end of your career. We were told not to talk to foreigners and I know some athletes who finished their careers because they did. I wanted badly to compete and, because of that, I didn't make any friends with athletes overseas. Now that the freedom has come, I regret it."

After the revolution, the former Olympic champion and world-record holder in the women's high jump, Iolanda Balaş, was surprised to find out that she still had many friends.

"For the last three years I hadn't received any Christmas cards. Suddenly, after the revolution, about 30 arrived from all over the world," she said.

Gheorghe Dimescu, the coach of Olympic medal-winners, Tamara Costache and Noemi Lungu, said: "All our results basically defy the conditions. We had to train in cold swimming pools because of the energy saving programme. We left for a tour of the USA and Australia literally penniless."

"The persecution of certain athletes led to defections and despondency. The food was simply not good enough for top-class athletes," he said.

He also pointed out that much of the pre-revolution publicity associated with the design, planning and preparation of a Whitbread entry would be lost with a one-design. Instead, Dubois suggested that the second division should remain oriented to the International Offshore Rule and set at a level of 60ft, 10ft below the maxi level.

"Ceausescu encouraged the most base characteristics in human beings: disloyalty, envy and treachery."

A grim reality lies behind the glare of success

The late Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, a proud owner of the Olympic Order, was in fact squeezing the life out of Romanian sport. The more successful Romanian sport became, the greater the hardship Romanian sportsmen and women had to endure.

The decision to send Romanian athletes to Los Angeles in 1984—widely praised in sporting circles—had nothing to do with love for sport and Olympic ideals.

Romania's presence in the Olympics was part of Ceausescu's desire to challenge the Soviets and steal the headlines in the West. Whereas there was still some kind of excitement surrounding Romania's excellent performance in Los Angeles—simply relayed, without charge, on television by the Americans, the equally impressive showing in Seoul was met by the Romanian public with indif-

ference. Accordingly, the Romanian television station showed only glimpses of the Olympic action in South Korea. The change of attitude was because the reality behind the Olympic glare of success was grim. Corruption, treachery, sycophancy, destruction and extortion had become commonplace. Sportsmen and coaches became pawns in the political game.

"Romanian sport has been a perfect reflection of the events in society during the past decade. It was a tragedy," Mircea Anghelescu, the interim Sports Minister, said.

"There was the rhetoric on the one hand; the wonderful conditions... the support of the party... and on the other the reality; a dwindling number of grounds and facilities, a cutback in funding, a decrease in the number of partici-

pants. Romanian sport had been developed as an elitist structure. The new systematization policy of villages, cities and towns wiped out countless sports facilities. In Cluj, for example, a city with almost half a million inhabitants, there is only one sports complex."

For example, an expansion of the no-go area surrounding the Bucharest villa of Ceausescu led to the loss of the Floreasca sports complex. Snagov Lake, on the outskirts of Bucharest, became a forbidden area and the once famous Snagov Regatta simply disappeared from the calendar.

The Tineretului complex, where I spent countless hours training in my youth 25 years ago, is practically a wreck and it would take a huge financial effort to bring it back to a functional state again.

Romanian sport, which was once run by competent and dedicated people, was invaded by party and

communist youth activists in search of a comfortable administrative chair. Nicolae Ceausescu, the son of the dictator, before leaving his position as leader of the communist youth, arranged sports jobs for his friends.

One, Alexandru Paraschivescu, became the secretary of the track-and-field federation. Constantin Nicolae took over ice hockey and Dorin Lancranjan became the dictator at the kayak canoe federation. They are all on their way out or have already gone.

Anghelescu said: "I have told all federations to hold democratic, secret elections until March. We had the so-called communist elections in July when the party appointed or vetted people who took over positions in sport. At the same time, I had to replace some of the incumbents in some federations because athletes and coaches

of genuine prestige came to me and said that the man in charge was likely to sabotage the efforts to get a democratic structure in place."

The Securitate had been running Romanian sport. Travelling abroad meant getting the famous visa, in other words, an official permission that was always the privilege of the loathed secret service.

In an attempt to stem the endless string of defections, athletes have been followed abroad by Securitate men, other residents at the Romanian embassies abroad or travelling with a team as "advisers". The telephones in the entire building of the sports ministry, probably in the entire country, were tapped. Journalists at the sports newspaper and sports officials were delighted to show me an incriminating chip placed innocently inside the body of the

telephone. After the revolution, the former Olympic champion and world-record holder in the women's high jump, Iolanda Balaş, was surprised to find out that she still had many friends.

"For the last three years I hadn't received any Christmas cards. Suddenly, after the revolution, about 30 arrived from all over the world," she said.

Gheorghe Dimescu, the coach of Olympic medal-winners, Tamara Costache and Noemi Lungu, said: "All our results basically defy the conditions. We had to train in cold swimming pools because of the energy saving programme. We left for a tour of the USA and Australia literally penniless."

"The persecution of certain athletes led to defections and despondency. The food was simply not good enough for top-class athletes," he said.

He also pointed out that much of the pre-revolution publicity associated with the design, planning and preparation of a Whitbread entry would be lost with a one-design. Instead, Dubois suggested that the second division should remain oriented to the International Offshore Rule and set at a level of 60ft, 10ft below the maxi level.

"Ceausescu encouraged the most base characteristics in human beings: disloyalty, envy and treachery."

SKIING

Artificial race has open look

From Ray Robinson, Schladming, Austria

The snow drought gripping all Alpine regions in Europe is beginning to cause serious concern to the World Cup organizers. The unprecedented decision by the FIS technical delegate to cancel all World Cup events after the Val Gardena men's downhill has left the organizers with a backlog of races and no imminent forecast of snow.

The Schladming race organizers and tourist office have been quick to act. Over the past two weeks, officials have spent more than £100,000 on covering the Plaußner downhill run, a

distance of 4.5 kilometres in over 150,000 cubic metres of artificial snow. But preparing a fast race ski under artificial snow conditions has caught the technicians on the spot. The combination of artificial snow on what is essentially a "gliders" downhill course could create an upset win.

In the first of the two training sessions on Tuesday the difference between the winner, Atle Skardal, of Norway, and Helmut Hoeflechner, of Austria, in second position, was a staggering 1.59 seconds. Ronald Duncan, of Great Britain, from

a start position of 68, finished the first practice run in 31st place ahead of teammates Martin Bell, 45th, and Graham Bell, 58th.

The winner of the last downhill in Schladming, Pirmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, land, improved on his third position in the first training run, to win the second. Skardal, of Norway, showing consistent form, finished 0.31sec behind the Swiss man and ahead of Spardellotto, of Italy, by 0.63sec.

Ronald Duncan finished in an impressive 23rd place. Martin Bell improved his position to 36th, and his brother, Graham, finished in a disappointing 61st place. The third and final training run yesterday was won by Zurbriggen.

The first official practice run for the women's World Cup downhill event at Haus-Ennstal, Austria, on Saturday was called off yesterday for safety reasons.

SNOW REPORTS

AUSTRIA	L	U
Bell (Schladming)	0	30
Innsbruck/Val	0	5
Ischgl	15	40
Kitzbühel	10	40
Lech	25	50
Mayrhofen	5	20
Obertauern	30	110
Schladming	20	30
Seefeld/Hinterglemm	30	75
St Anton	15	50
Sölden	5	45
St. Moritz	15	25
Zell am See	15	35

* Information supplied by the Austrian National Tourist Office.

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs	Weather	
	L	U	Piste	Off P	
ANDORRA	20	95	fair	varied	closed
Good skiing above 2000m, green run down to El Tarter					
open					
ANDORRA	35	105	worn	moguls	
Good skiing now with rocks coming through					
open	30	75	fair	varied	
Conditions wearing well, few queues					
ANDORRA	15	55	poor	moguls	
Good skiing good, lower slopes very warm with					

cellent skiing on glacier, runs to the resort or badly worn	5	110	poor moguls	w
ere	10	40	fair crust	
any of good piste skiing but look out for ro me places	10	50	worn crust	w
ers	10	50	worn crust	w
lope pistes in good condition, minimal				
a	25	60	fair crust	
st skiing on high north and west facing slopes				
ERLAND				
mintana	0	40	worn varied	cl

and skiing still available on cry d'Err and glaciers	20	70	good	good	weather
conditions hard packed with some rocks on lower slopes	5	50	varied	closed	
and snow on Savoyres, Mont Fort and Thyon	0	2	varied	closed	
limited skiing in valleys. Les diablerets glacier	0	50	hard	closed	closed
very good snow but long queues	0	50	hard	closed	closed
very good skiing all over glacier but some ice patches					

above reports, supplied by representatives of the
L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and

SCOTLAND
Chalmers: Snow level, 2,500ft; vertical run, 2,000ft. Runs: upper, very little snow; middle, no snow; lower, only a light dusting of snow; access roads open, all chairlifts and lifts are closed.
Glenfeshie, Loch and Glacquo: No snow for skiing at any level; access roads open, all chairlifts and lifts are closed. Access lift, 1,000ft. Runs: upper, narrow runs; lower, no snow; access roads closed; gondola lift closed; chairlift closed; lower closed. All areas closed at summit, falling to 2,500ft at times. The cloud base will fall to 2,000ft in the rain, with patches at 800ft. Mid generally, with freezing level rising to 2,500ft and 6,000ft. Which will be south-westerly, gale force over summit. Outlook: Heavy rain at times, followed by brighter weather with showers on Friday. Snow above 2,000ft. Milder again on Saturday, but continued gale-force winds over summit.

* Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

TENNIS

Cash wins return to active service

From Barry Wood, Sydney

Pat Cash yesterday played his first competitive match since tearing an Achilles tendon last April, as he partnered Mark Kratzmann to a 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 victory over Paul Anaconne and Christo Van Rensburg in the first round New South Wales championships.

After some problems with his serve, Cash settled down and impressed with his sharpness, especially at the net.

Although he is not yet ready to test himself in singles, he will partner again at the Australian championships next week, with Stefan Edberg.

"I've got quite a way to go until I'm fully fit, but there are four weeks to the Davis Cup and I'd like to play in that, either singles or doubles," Cash said. "Wimbledon is the first grand slam I have a chance of doing well in, and by then I should be playing really well," added the 1987 champion.

Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker, the top seeds, reached the third round, but Tim Mayotte, the fourth seed, was beaten 7-6, 6-2 by Pete Sampras and Andre Gomez, the sixth seed, was defeated 7-5, 6-4 by David Wheaton.

Krishnan has bumpy passage to last eight

Auckland (AP) — Ramesh Krishnan, of India, the defending champion, struggled past Bruce Derlin, of New Zealand, 7-6, 7-5 yesterday to advance to the quarter-finals of the New Zealand Open championship.

Krishnan, who is unseeded, had to give two set points in the first set tie-break. He then led 4-1 in the second set but allowed Derlin back to 4-4 before taking control.

"You only need to turn a few points the other way and it could have been 7-6, 7-5 for him," Krishnan said. Derlin said that he had not played aggressively enough in the second-round match.

Magnus Gustafsson, of Sweden, the third seed, Amos Mansdorf, the fifth seed, and Scott Davis, of the United States, the eighth seed, joined Krishnan in the last eight.

Gustafsson was in awesome form beating Jeremy Bates, of Great Britain, 6-2 in 51 minutes. From 1-2 in the first set, Gustafsson won 11 consecutive games to set up a quarter-final clash with Krishnan.

Davis had four match points in the second set against Dan Goldie, a fellow American, but was forced into a third set before winning 6-1, 6-7, 6-2.

Mansdorf, the 1988 champion, beat Olivier Delaure, of France, 6-2, 7-5 in 74 minutes. The Israeli will meet the winner of today's second-round match between Americans Jimmy Arias and Glenn Layendecker.

RESULTS: Second round: M. Gustafsson (S) bt J. Bates (GB), 6-2, 6-2, 7-5; R. Krishnan (I) bt B. Derlin (NZ), 7-6, 7-5; P. Sampras (U) bt A. Gomez (U), 7-6, 6-2, 6-4; D. Wheaton (U) bt C. Van Rensburg (S), 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

YACHTING

Skippers reject new class

From Barry Pickthall, Auckland

The controversial proposal by the newly formed Offshore Maxi Yacht Association (OMYA) for a 60ft Whitbread One-design class has been given a firm rebuff by the skippers competing in the lower order of this year's Round the World Race.

At a meeting of the pressure group during the Auckland stop-over, Bruno Dubois, skipper of the Belgian entry, Rucanor Sport, who has been elected as spokesman for the division 2 and 3 boats, spelt out their reasons for not wishing to compete in a One-design class.

The maxi skippers and representatives, led by Pierre Fehlmann and Harold Cudmore, called on Whitbread

last month to loan the OMYA \$250,000 to commission Bruce Farr to design a Round the World Race yacht suitable for series building, probably in New Zealand. The OMYA planned to control the class and draw royalties from each boat with the idea providing the association and its officers with a valuable income.

The oversight in the plan was thinking who might buy and sail these yachts. Certainly not the maxi skippers who were to benefit from the deal. Now, it appears, the skippers of the smaller yachts, who were consulted about the idea, are equally disenchanted.

Dubois spoke for all the small-boat skippers except Dan-

iel Malle from La Poste, the French yacht, which is still at sea. He explained that most sponsors had a nationalistic outlook and would back only boats that were designed and built in their own countries, thus negating any cost savings associated with multi-production.

He also pointed out that much of the pre-race publicity associated with the design, planning and preparation of a Whitbread entry would be lost with a One-design. Instead, Dubois suggested that the second division should remain oriented to the International Offshore Rule and set at a level of 60ft, 10ft below the maxi level.

After 24 hours of heroic improvisation in the Southern Ocean, Jean-Yves Terlain in his 60ft sloop, UAP, is still racing in the Globe Challenge non-stop single-handed round the world race, despite having been dismantled 900 miles south of Cape Town.

He has turned back to an easterly course, having been heading north, apparently towards Cape Town and retirement from the race, and has told the Paris headquarters that he plans to race on under the jury which he has assembled from the wreckage of his original mast.

Terlain and UAP were running at 15 knots under small mainsail and narrow Soling jib, with the larger genoa headsail boomed-out on the opposite side to the mainsail, when the mast collapsed, breaking in

three places.

Approaching the longitude of the Kerguelen Islands, but further south at 52 South, Titouan Lamazou continues to lead by over 350 miles, but his apparent unassailability is under serious threat from Van de Heede to 36.15 Met. In the past four days, VDH, as he is universally known in France, has moved up from fifth to third.

The international jury has awarded Lock Peyron 14.3 hours for the time lost in standing by the capsized Philippe Pouppou.

Although the emergency lasted 20 hours, the jury noted that Peyron did not have to turn back for Poupon, but sailed 60 degrees off his intended course. Alain Gautier, who also diverted towards Poupon's position, is awarded 13.3 hours.

For athletics, in which more than 8,000 schools in Britain participate will also benefit.

At the launch in Belfast, David Baxby, of Esso Petroleum, said: "One of Esso's philosophy is to provide opportunities for many young people as people, as well as supporting their aspirations to become our future international stars."

Sponsor pumps money into sport

More than £23,000 will go to youth teams in Northern Ireland. The money will help with costs of schools football matches, the Irish Home Trials.

Society's 12 one-day trials, and the international race programme of the Esso youth swimming squads.

Some of the cash will help stage the National Boys Golf Championship, while the Esso-AAA Five-Star award scheme

Britain's huge body on the slide

By Chris Moore

The financially stricken Great Britain Luge Association is ready to throw in the towel and abandon its fight for survival. "It's simply impossible for us to carry on any longer," Chris Dyason, the secretary, admitted last night.

"We've told our two top competitors, Nick Overt and Annabel Nash, that there's no way we can support them any more after this weekend's European championships in Igls."

"The way things are at the moment it could be the end of the Great Britain Luge Association. We're run by a five-man committee who are personally responsible for guaranteeing our bank overdraft. We're over £1,000 in debt, and with the Sports Council still refusing us any assistance, we simply can't carry the burden any longer," Dyason said.

"The Sports Council are supposed to be the government body that encourages and supports sport. But in our case they have done the opposite. It was typical of the way they work that they left it until a couple of weeks before the start of the season before

informing us we would be receiving nothing from them in the way of an annual grant this season.

"You could not run a business under such circumstances, and despite all our pleas for help, none has been forthcoming. We've never stopped trying to attract some sponsorship and will continue to do so. But the simple truth of the matter is that we can't afford to operate any longer."

"There's no money to buy petrol for our minibuses, which is our only asset, and no money to pay for our coach, or even for track fees. It's sad to say, but we've reached the end of the road."

"For the people involved it's a real tragedy because a lot of hard work has gone into establishing our credibility in the sport."

Four years ago, following the Coe Report, the Luge Association was awarded £60,000 as its slice of the cake leading up to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. The grant was cut to £20,000 last winter and wiped out altogether this season.

"The reasons we were given were because we were not a mass-participant sport and don't cater for the old, disabled or disadvantaged," Dyason said. "But it wouldn't cost a lot to enable Nick and Annabel to compete in the last four rounds of the World Cup and the world championships in Calgary next month."

Nick Overt, the younger brother of Steve Overt, is also likely to be forced out of the sport after the European championships this weekend.

Liverpool may be forced to restore fences at Anfield

By Ian Ross

Liverpool Football Club warned yesterday that it might be necessary to reinstate perimeter fencing in front of visiting supporters should there be a repetition of the pitch invasions that marred Tuesday night's FA Cup replay against Swansea City.

Twice in the second half of a game that Liverpool won 8-0, Swansea supporters breached a police cordon in front of the Anfield Road stand and ran on the pitch.

Although stewards and police officers quickly apprehended the culprits and ejected them from the stadium, the match had to be halted during the second incident when a lone supporter ran the length of the pitch with his arms raised aloft.

Peter Robinson, the chief executive of Liverpool, said that safety and security regulations at Anfield would have to be reviewed if similar events happened in the future.

"Supporters have complained for a very long time that they have been treated

like animals and put behind bars in what they refer to as cages. They have said that football clubs do not treat them with the respect they deserve," he said.

"We have taken down the fencing at our ground but now we find supporters abusing their new found freedom by running onto the pitch. Supporters really cannot criticize clubs if they cannot behave themselves during the course of a match. They must act in a more responsible manner."

"Obviously, we are very concerned about what happened on Tuesday night. If we were to find this sort of thing happening on anything like a regular basis we would have to consider putting up fencing in front of the visiting supporters and that is something which we do not want to do," he added.

Liverpool, who have already announced their intention to make Anfield an all-seater stadium within the next two years, have made strenuous

attempts to improve spectator safety and comfort in the wake of last season's Hillsborough disaster.

Robinson pointed out: "We are trying to create a stadium where people can watch football in comfort."

"We would like to think that we provide all visiting supporters with a good seat which provides a good vantage point."

"The view of the club, the referee and the police is that Tuesday night's incidents were born out of high spirits but, even so, we do not want to see a repeat."

Doug Sharpe, the chairman of Swansea City, also condemned those supporters involved in the invasions. "It is not good for Swansea City and it is not good for football when a few mindless idiots try to take the gloss off what was a big occasion," he said.

Merseyside Police said yesterday that of the 10 people arrested in or near the ground on Tuesday night, only two were from South Wales.

Robson may play in Luton testimonial

Bryan Robson, the captain of Manchester United and England, is expected on Monday to play his first game in more than three weeks (Ian Ross writes).

Robson has been pencilled in to play against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road in a testimonial game for Mal Donaghy, the United defender who is on loan to Luton. Robson has been unable to train since damaging a groin muscle at Anfield on December 23, and has been receiving intensive treatment. He has missed United's last four games, including Sunday's FA Cup third round win over Nottingham Forest at the City ground.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had been considering including Robson in the side for the Saturday's game against Derby County at Old

Trafford, but he has opted for a safety first strategy following discussions with the club's medical advisers.

"It may be too much of a risk to play him this weekend, but a friendly match is the ideal way in which to ease him back," Ferguson said.

The United board of directors will discuss Luton's request for an extension to Donaghy's loan period, which expires on Monday. With Ferguson keen to keep Les Sealey, the Luton goalkeeper who is on loan with United, that request will almost certainly be granted.

United's FA Cup fourth round tie against Hereford United has been put back to Sunday, January 28, at the request of West Mercia police, who fear that they would be unable to cope with a Saturday fixture.

Blower seeks apology

Frank McAvennie, the £1.25 million West Ham United and Scotland forward, is being called on to publicly apologize to Brian Blower, the club's commercial manager, following an incident at a private party in an Essex hotel just before Christmas (Dennis Signy writes).

Blower, who is chairman of the Commercial Managers' Association and a leading light in the Football League Executive Staffs Association

(FLESA) was celebrating his 48th birthday. He has taken legal advice but yesterday told his solicitors to hold affidavits from independent witnesses about an alleged assault in front of his wife and three children, pending an apology.

McAvennie, who broke his left leg on the opening day of the season, was at Lilleshall yesterday on a rehabilitation course. He hopes to resume play next month.

A surprise departure by Turner

Chris Turner, the Cambridge United manager for the last four years, stunned the club yesterday by announcing his resignation 12 hours after they had earned an FA Cup fourth round tie against either Millwall or Manchester City.

Cambridge hit back from being a goal down in a third round replay at Darlington on Tuesday night to win 3-1, but it did little to influence Turner's decision.

"I know this will come as a shock to most people, but I have been thinking about it for 10 days. I decided it was time for a change," Turner said.

John Beck, his assistant, will carry on for the rest of the season, but Turner, a major shareholder, still wants to be connected — as a possible general manager.

Lawrie McMenemy yesterday pulled out of the race to replace John Gregory as manager of Portsmouth because he is still committed to their rivals Southampton.

McMenemy, a frequent visitor to Fratton Park since his career collapsed at Sunderland, said he was not interested in the vacancy caused by Gregory's sacking last week after only 50 weeks in charge.

Frank Burrows, the assistant manager, will continue as caretaker for the moment. Earlier this week, Portsmouth signed Mick Hazard, of Chelsea.

All-clear for Raducanu to play in Scotland

Cristian Raducanu, the Romanian lock forward, who defected after the game against Scotland last month, has been given permission by the Romanian authorities to play in Scotland.

Raducanu, aged 22, disappeared from his hotel shortly after the post-match dinner and requested to stay in Britain. Since then his whereabouts have been a carefully guarded secret but he is believed to have close contacts with Birmingham.

This latest development is bound to fuel speculation that the forward will play for the Edinburgh club.

● An attempt to bring together the 1989 British Lions

to play in a fund-raising match to help Romanian rugby has been called off (David Hands writes).

Richard Jenkins, chairman of the Hove club, has withdrawn his proposal to play a match at Brighton and Hove Albion football ground on April 29, though he was commended by the RFU yesterday for his enthusiasm to bring aid to the Romanian federation.

"We were the last union to visit Romania, in May, and the hospitality we were offered under such difficult circumstances was marvellous," Dudley Wood, the secretary of the Rugby Union, said. After the revolution, page 38

Allen locks in to win a first cap for Wales

By Gerald Davies

For the game against France on Saturday week, in Cardiff, the Welsh rugby union selectors have introduced one new cap into the team which lost to New Zealand in November. He is Andrew Allen, of Newbridge, who will occupy one of the lock positions alongside Kevin Moseley, Gareth Llewellyn, of Neath, is left out altogether and Phil Davies moves to the blind side of the scrum.

The back division sees the return of Mark Tait, of Swansea, on the wings, who last played for Wales against Western Samoa in 1986. Mike Hall moves into the centre instead of David Evans, whilst Evans, in turn, moves to stand-off half instead of Tony Clement.

Hands off

Sydney (AP) — Jeff Fenech, of Australia, who hopes to add the World Boxing Council super-featherweight championship to three titles he has already won at different weights, may not box until May after undergoing hand surgery.

Early start

Auckland (AP) — Ghana arrived yesterday for the Commonwealth Games, the first national team to do so and three days before the official Games village opens.

Cup congress

The Rugby Football Union will stage an international coaching conference from October 15 to 18 next year as part of three congresses planned by the International Rugby Football Board as part of the 1991 World Cup.

Scotland will host a medical conference and Wales a referees conference.

Back on track

Johannesburg (Reuters) — The modernized Kyalami track here is to stage Formula One testing sessions next week, a sign that international motor racing may return to South Africa after five years.

Youth squad

The British Amateur Rugby League Association has named a squad of 22 players to prepare for the youth international match against France at Barrow on March 3.

SQUAD: D. Archer (Barrow), C. Booth (Castleford), M. Cattan (Chesham), M. Crane (Huddersfield), M. Dempsey (Widnes), J. Dym (Doncaster), D. Elliott (Whitehaven), S. Garland (Chesham), A. Halliwell (Wigan), M. Kay (Oldham), J. Miller (Whitehaven), J. Macdonald (Hull), G. Parr (Wigan), N. Pritchard (Hull), D. Prie (Whitehaven), M. Riley (Whitehaven), S. Sagar (Whitehaven), M. Smith (Castleford), C. Thomas (Barrow), C. White (Wigan), S. Whitmore (Wigan).

A conducted tour of Gooch



Packing his bag for the West Indies: Gooch, the England cricket captain, under close press surveillance after he and his team trained at Lilleshall yesterday. Report, page 35

Senna must eat humble pie to renew his licence

By John Blunsden

Ayrton Senna's war of words with the governing body of motor sport took an ugly turn yesterday when Jean-Marie Balestre, the FIA president, announced that the sport's World Council had refused to grant him a licence to take part in the 1990 world championship.

Senna has until February 15 to reply to his licence, but Balestre said that any application would be refused unless he withdrew the allegations he had made to the media that the 1989 championship had been manipulated by the French-dominated FIA to give the title to Alain Prost, his Marlboro McLaren team partner.

The FIA president said that Senna had refused to withdraw his allegations when

asked to do so at an FIA hearing into the matter early in December and that his arrogant behaviour on that occasion had shocked members of the council.

The Brazilian driver, who won the world championship in 1988, but then had an acrimonious relationship with Prost throughout most of last season, was fined £61,000 and given a suspended six-month ban for dangerous driving, following the controversial collision between the two drivers in the Japanese grand prix, the outcome of which effectively handed the 1989 title to Prost.

Although Senna was in no mood to retract his comments before he returned home from Paris to "recharge his bat-

teries" in preparation for the new season, it now seems certain that he will have to make some sort of public retraction.

Meanwhile, McLaren have their own dispute with the FIA over Senna's disqualification from the Japanese race, in which his car was first across the finishing line, and have indicated that they will pursue this matter through all the legal processes available to achieve justice and fair play.

However, Senna's remarks concerning the drivers' title are a separate issue, and the team and its sponsors will be expecting him to make himself available for the first race in Phoenix in March, no matter how much humble pie he has to eat to do so.

FISA has Le Mans doubts

Paris (Reuters) — The chances of this year's Le Mans 24-hour sports car race going ahead receded yesterday when the sport's governing body set a new condition on resuming talks on the event's future.

Jean-Marie Balestre, the president of the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA), told a news conference there would be no more negotiations with Le Mans organizers until they agreed publicly for what he called "a campaign of defama-

tion against FISA". Balestre added that FISA still insisted that two chicanes be built on the track's notorious seven-kilometre Mulsanne straight, where speeds of more than 400kph had been recorded, before approval for the race could be given.

No foreign drivers would be able to take part in the race if FISA's approval was withheld, he said.

Last month FISA removed the Le Mans event from this

year's world championship programme because of security concerns over the straight, but agreed to protect its place in the calendar until January 31 to allow time for negotiations with race organizers, the Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO).

Balestre said 100 lives had been lost on the Mulsanne straight in 35 years, 83 of them in a horrific accident in 1955 when a Mercedes ploughed through a crowd of spectators.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Ayr sign a Gretzky

Ayr Raiders have signed Keith Gretzky, the younger brother of Wayne, the world's leading ice hockey player, as a replacement for the injured Danny Shea.

Cuskin leads

Paul Cuskin leads the England team in the Scottish cross country union's six-mile century race at Irvine on Saturday.

Back on track

Johannesburg (Reuters) — The modernized Kyalami track here is to stage Formula One testing sessions next week, a sign that international motor racing may return to South Africa after five years.

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END COLUMN

Bryant brought in from the cold

By David Rhys Jones

Among the happiest competitors in the XIVth Commonwealth Games at Auckland will be three bowlers who were forced to miss the last Games, at Edinburgh, because they were considered to be professionals. The way they have been readmitted to the amateur ranks may interest followers of other sports.

David Bryant and Tony Alcock, of England, and Willie Wood for Scotland, were *permanently* pros because they were considered to be professionals. The way they have been readmitted to the amateur ranks may interest followers of other sports.

Board members must have been stung by the sight of Wood, the 1982 gold medal winner, paying to go through the turnstiles at Balgownie while just down the road at Meadowbank, amateurs like Daley Thompson, Seb Coe and Fatima Whitbread were going for gold.

Wood was then — and still is — a modest, self-employed motor mechanic from Gifford, who had dreamed of defending his title on home territory, but burned his boats by winning a few thousand pounds — thanks to his ability to roll woods in the right direction at the right speed.

Eligibility rules rapidly redrawn

Recognizing that Wood was far from professional in the sense that most thinking people would understand the term, the IBB, in its wisdom, decreed that "all players are eligible for selection for Commonwealth Games except those whose principal source of income is derived from playing the game of bowls".

The two key words seemed to be "principal" and "playing", suggesting that if you earned less than half your income from actually playing bowls, you were an amateur, and therefore eligible for selection for the Games.

Bryant and Alcock had also been denied a trip to Brisbane four years before Edinburgh. Bryant, of course, was the first self-styled bowls professional, exchanging his teaching post for a career as a bowls salesman and consultant as long ago as 1970.

Their status as *non-players* is not as clear cut as Wood's, because both, frankly, make a living out of bowls, even if they claim, with some justification, that they earn more as directors of their own companies than they do from "playing bowls". The point is that talking or writing about bowls and selling or endorsing equipment does not count.

Before they were selected for Auckland, however, the two Englishmen had to state whether their "annual income from playing bowls exceeded their expenses by an excessive amount."

Bowls has shown the way ahead

Now that's an entirely different bowls game. Players who could justifiably claim their earnings from playing bowls were not their principal income found it much harder to swear that such earnings had not exceeded their expenses. But now they were being asked whether the excess, if any, was "excessive".

"I've been playing bowls for more than 40 years," Bryant said, "and I can guarantee that I've spent a lot more on playing the game during that time than I've ever earned in prize-money." Maybe so... but was that the question he was being asked? Nobody seemed to know, but his answer clearly satisfied the selectors.

Bowls, happily, faces this problem only once every four years. The terms "amateur" and "professional" become irrelevant as soon as bowls went "open" in 1981, and no problems have arisen subsequently — except when eligibility for Commonwealth Games is discussed.

Everyone, in every sport, surely wants the Commonwealth Games to be the stage for the very top performers. Without the Bryants, Allocks and Woods, the 1986 Games were seriously devalued in the estimation of every bowls follower. They are welcome back.

Surely there is an overwhelming case for sport to be neither amateur (impossible these days) nor professional (few can earn a living playing sport) but simply "open". Bowls, albeit unwittingly, may be playing a valuable pioneering role as sport prepares to enter the 21st century.

COULD YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE AS FAST AS EINSTEIN?

				28
				30
				20
				16
19	20	30		

HOW TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE

The different types of fruit have different values. Added together they give the totals shown. Work out the missing total for the left hand column.

If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mensa, the high IQ Society. Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test. To: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR (no stamp required)

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